



Jospin goes
salt with new
anti-pollution law

PARIS (AP) — French
Premier Lionel Jospin
announced Thursday
that he would lead a
four-member cabinet
reshuffle. Jospin said
the reshuffle would
include the interior
minister, the justice
minister, the health
minister and the
education minister.
Jospin said the
reshuffle was part of
a broader effort to
strengthen the
government's
ability to deal with
the challenges of
the 1990s.

Brigitte Bardot
"shocked" after
hunter shoots bear

PARIS (AP) — Brigitte
Bardot, the French
actress, said Thursday
she was "shocked" and
"disappointed" after
seeing a film about the
hunting of bears in
France. Bardot said
she had seen a film
about the hunting of
bears in France and
was "shocked" and
"disappointed" by
what she saw. She
said she had seen a
film about the
hunting of bears in
France and was
"shocked" and
"disappointed" by
what she saw.

German car
curbs emissions

CAR (AP) — German
automobile makers
said Thursday they
will begin to curb
emissions from their
cars. The makers said
they will begin to
curb emissions from
their cars. They said
they will begin to
curb emissions from
their cars. They said
they will begin to
curb emissions from
their cars.

Bill Clinton
to be elected

WASHINGTON (AP) —
Bill Clinton is expected
to be elected president
of the United States
in November. Clinton
is expected to be
elected president
of the United States
in November. Clinton
is expected to be
elected president
of the United States
in November.

King's delegate visits poet

AMMAN (J.T.) — His Majesty King Hussein Friday delegated Jordan's Ambassador in London Fuad Ayyoub to visit the renowned Arab poet, Nizar Qabani, who is being hospitalized in London and to convey to him the King's best wishes for a speedy recovery. Mr. Qabani is reported to have had a heart attack and that he will undergo an "open heart" surgery as soon as his condition allows. The popular poet is famous for his romantic and political poetry and has recently left his homeland, Syria, to live in London, England. The King said that he will pay for the hospital treatment of the poet.

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جوردان تايمز يومية سياسية تصدر بالانجليزية عن المؤسسة الصحفية الاردنية، الراي

King wishes Saudi prince well after surgery

AMMAN (Petra) — His Majesty King Hussein on Friday talked with Saudi Second Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Defence Prince Sultan Ben Abdul Aziz during which the King congratulated him on the success of a left-knee surgery he underwent in Geneva. King Hussein wished him good health and a speedy recovery.

Israel protests to truce committee over Hizbollah attack in Lebanon

TEL AVIV (AFP) — Israel lodged a protest Thursday with the five-nation committee overseeing a truce accord in south Lebanon over a mortar attack the previous day by Hizbollah guerrillas, the army said. An army spokesman said Hizbollah fired Wednesday on an outpost of the Israeli army and its allied South Lebanon Army (SLA) from a civilian village in violation of the April 1996 truce accord. An SLA militiaman was killed Wednesday in a Hizbollah rocket attack on an SLA post at Aytarun, inside Israel's self-declared "security zone" in south Lebanon, the SLA radio station Voice of the South said.

Israeli dies of wounds from July bombing

TEL AVIV (R) — An Israeli man wounded in a July 30 double suicide bombing in Jerusalem died Friday, bringing the death toll in the attack to 18, including the two bombers. "Mr. Baruch Ostravosky, 84, from Jerusalem died this morning from wounds he sustained in the Mahane Yehuda bombing. Since the bombing, he was unconscious and in the intensive care unit," said Yossi Shoval, spokesman for Jerusalem's Hadassah Hospital.

Hizbollah says it trains Palestinian Islamists in Lebanon

BEIRUT (AFP) — A top official of Hizbollah said Friday that his group trains members of Hamas and Islamic Jihad in Lebanon. In an interview with weekly Lebanese newspaper Haroun, Hizbollah's Deputy Secretary General Sheikh Naim Qassem said: "It's normal. We have trained them and we are continuing to do so to this day on Lebanese territory." Hizbollah leader Hassan Nasrallah said recently that there was "coordination between Hizbollah and the Palestinian groups Hamas [Islamic Resistance Movement] and the Islamic Jihad, which are violently opposed to the peace accords with Israel. 'We are ready to help them in their battle against Israel.'"

Sheikh Qassem said. Last month, Mr. Nasrallah threatened more attacks on Israel after his son and two other Hizbollah fighters were killed in clashes with Israeli troops. "Together with our Mujahideen brothers in Palestine we can also make sure that there is no more tourism or infrastructure in the Hebrew entry," Hizbollah carries out most anti-Israeli resistance in south Lebanon, where Israel occupies a self-declared "security zone" since 1985.

Knesset to launch probe Canada says Israelis involved in attempt on Misha'al's life

Sarid accuses Netanyahu of 'irresponsible and childish behaviour'; Israeli media lashes out at government

Combined agency
dispatches

ISRAELIS WERE involved in the recent assassination attempt against Khaled Misha'al, the Hamas leader in Jordan, Canadian Foreign Minister Lloyd Axworthy said Friday. "Our information is that Israelis were involved," said Mr. Axworthy concerning the assassination attempt last week in Amman. Ottawa recalled its ambassador to Israel Thursday "for consultations" following the revelation that two hit men, presumed to be members of Israel's Mossad secret service, were carrying Canadian passports. The two were arrested in Amman after a failed attempt to assassinate a senior Palestinian official last week. Meanwhile, an Israeli parliamentary committee is to launch an inquiry into

the attack on Mr. Misha'al, one of the committee's members told Agence France Presse (AFP) Friday. Yossi Sarid, a deputy in the leftwing Meretz Party, said a committee charged with overseeing the work of Israel's intelligence services would meet in the next few days. "I have demanded the committee be convened. It will without doubt meet in the course of the next few days," Mr. Sarid said. Mr. Sarid accused Mr. Netanyahu of "irresponsible and childish behaviour" for allowing the attack on Mr. Misha'al to go ahead. Israel TV correspondent Alon Ben-David had reported that after the July 30 double suicide bombing of a Jerusalem vegetable market that killed 18, including the assailants, Mr. Netanyahu ordered a

Misha'al thanks King for 'major role in resolving case'

By Tareq Ayyoub
Special to the Jordan Times

AMMAN — The head of the Hamas politburo, Khaled Misha'al, said Friday he was grateful for His Majesty King Hussein for taking personal interest in his health condition following the alleged assassination attempt by Israeli Mossad agents on Sept. 24. "Thanks to His Majesty who had a very major and distinguished role in resolving my case especially in ordering medical crew to treat me," Mr. Misha'al said in a press conference after eight days of medical treatment

at the King Hussein Medical Centre (KHMC). Mr. Misha'al dismissed contention that there was a deal behind the release of the founder of Hamas, Sheikh Ahmad Yassin, on Wednesday. He was echoing a statement made by Prime Minister Abdul Salam Majali on Thursday in which he denied any deal between Jordan and Israel to release Sheikh Yassin from jail. Dr. Majali told the Lebanese Broadcasting Corporation (LBC) that investigation in this case was going on adding that

Tarawneh calls on U.N. to end sanctions on Iraq

UNITED NATIONS (AP) — Jordan urged the United Nations on Friday to repeal economic sanctions on Iraq to end the suffering of the Iraqi people. In a speech to the General Assembly, Minister of Foreign Affairs Fayez Tarawneh also called on Iraq to abide by Security Council resolutions demanding that Baghdad destroy weapons of mass destruction and make a full disclosure to U.N. inspectors. Those are the conditions which the council has set for lifting the sanctions, which the council imposed on Baghdad after President



Minister of Foreign Affairs Fayez Tarawneh speaking at the 52nd Session of the U.N. General Assembly, Friday (Reuters photo)

Syria: Peace process may turn into 'blood-letting'

UNITED NATIONS (R) — Syrian Foreign Minister Farouq Sharaa said Wednesday Israel's insistence on security before ending occupation would turn the Middle East peace process into a "blood-letting process." In a speech to the General Assembly, he said the achievement of peace brought security, not the opposite. "It is no exaggeration to say that the insistence by the Israeli government on its erroneous concepts of achieving security before ending occupation will transform the peace process to a blood-letting process a cycle of killing which will not obtain security or peace for Israel and may return the Arab-Israeli conflict to its tragic beginnings."

Mr. Sharaa said the Israeli government followed a policy of eradicating the peace process by taking "not the usual one of one step forward, two steps back [but] ...

of one step back then two steps back, followed by a threat of a further step backwards which cannot be conceded, even provisionally, until the other side accepts new conditions it had already rejected — and so on."

Referring to Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu, he said some would be "surprised to learn that the head of the Israeli government boasts to his inner circle of employing such a tactic, which he believes is a very astute means of ending the peace process as quietly as possible."

Mr. Sharaa said many governments and peoples perhaps could not foresee the extent of the "serious repercussions which will result from that Israeli reversal on the peace process — particularly since it takes place in the post-cold war period, where wars and armed confrontations have taken ugly and barbaric forms" and had often raged out of control.

Rubin blames Albright slip on morning shows

WASHINGTON (AFP) — Three days after U.S. Secretary of State Madeleine Albright sparked a controversy by pronouncing Israeli settlements "legal," her spokesman said Friday that she had simply oversimplified. "She was not intending to make a legal judgement about settlements," State Department spokesman James Rubin said. "She was trying to answer a narrow technical question in the context of an interactive interview, where you try to make

IAEA demands immediate access to details on Iraqi sites

VIENNA (AFP) — The International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) Friday demanded that Iraq immediately give its inspectors information on suspected nuclear arms sites. The demand, adopted by 75 countries, came on the heels of a new row with Iraq after the top U.N. weapons inspector protested over fresh incidents in which U.N. monitors were denied access to three suspected Iraqi arms sites. In a statement issued at a meeting of the U.N. nuclear energy watchdog body here, the IAEA urged that Baghdad hand over "without further delay, currently undisclosed nuclear weapon-related equipment, material and information." It also demanded "immediate, unconditional and unrestricted rights of access" to IAEA inspectors monitoring Iraq's nuclear arms capabilities. Iraq has been under tough U.N. sanctions since the 1990 invasion of Kuwait, and an oil embargo can only be lifted when U.N. arms inspectors certify that all Iraqi weapons of mass destruction have been dismantled in line with U.N. resolutions. Speaking at the IAEA conference here last Wednesday, Iraqi Culture and Information Minister Humam Ghafour called for the lifting of sanctions, saying his people were victims of a "genocide."

He maintained that Baghdad had fully cooperated with IAEA inspectors during their 400 visits to 130 sites in Iraq.



Palestinian President Yasser Arafat kisses His Majesty King Hussein on Friday. President Arafat held private talks with the King (Reuters photo)



Palestinian President Yasser Arafat calls on Hamas founder Sheikh Ahmad Yassin at the King Hussein Medical Centre, Thursday. The ailing Hamas spiritual leader is undergoing medical treatment ordered by His Majesty King Hussein before he goes back home to Gaza (Photo by Meldos)

King, Arafat discuss developments in peace talks; visit Sheikh Yassin

By Tareq Ayyoub
Special to the Jordan Times

AMMAN — Palestinian President Yasser Arafat left Jordan Friday following a two-day visit in which he met with His Majesty King Hussein and Hamas leaders in Amman. President Arafat expressed his satisfaction with the talks he held with Jordanian officials, which focused on developments in peace talks with Israel, Jordan News Agency, Petra, reported. The Palestinian leader briefed King Hussein on the

outcomes of the Palestinian-Israeli meetings in the U.S., where the two sides agreed to resume their peace talks, stalled because of the Israel's settlement policies. Mr. Arafat expressed his appreciation of the King's efforts to release the spiritual leader of Hamas, Sheikh Ahmad Yassin, from Israeli prisons and the care he extended to treat the 'Hamas' politburo chief, Khaled Misha'al, who was subjected to an alleged assassination attempt on Sept. 24. Following their official

talks, the King accompanied Mr. Arafat in a joint visit to Sheikh Yassin and Mr. Misha'al at the King Hussein Medical Centre. Following the visit, the King denied that a deal was reached with Israel to release Sheikh Yassin and said that the Kingdom has been calling for the release of the Hamas leader for a long time. He said Jordan appreciates the release of Sheikh Yassin adding that the

Crown Prince back in Amman after talks with U.S. president 'We are for a Palestinian state, for the political sovereignty of the Palestinians'

AMMAN (Petra) — His Royal Highness Crown Prince Hassan returned home this weekend after a working visit to the United States where he conveyed a message from His Majesty King Hussein to U.S. President Bill Clinton. The message dealt with efforts to overcome obstacles facing the peace process and means of building a regional environment conducive to achieving a breakthrough in the negotiations between the Palestinians and the Israelis. During the visit, which falls within the framework of continued dialogue between the United States and Jordan on how to end the stalemate in the peace process, Jordanian and

American leaders explored further steps that the two countries can take to advance the peace talks. The talks also addressed the steps the United States is expected to take shortly to increase economic and military assistance to Jordan at a time when the Kingdom enjoys the support of both the American administration and Congress. Crown Prince Hassan expressed the Kingdom's appreciation for this support. President Clinton, meanwhile, stressed the importance of the Kingdom's role in building peace and stability in the region under the wise leadership of King Hussein. Prince Hassan told a group of journalists in

Washington that the message the King sent to President Clinton emphasised the need to exert all possible efforts to end the stalemate in the peace talks and Jordan's rejection of Israeli unilateral measures that aim at changing the facts on the ground. The Crown Prince stressed that the progress achieved in Washington recently must be strengthened through fulfilling the commitments made there, pointing out that after U.S. Secretary of State Madeleine Albright's positive visit to the region, Jordan was looking for an American initiative that would aim at achieving the

Spice...
then...
computer...

PNA rejects U.S. rights report slamming abuses

GAZA CITY (AFP) — The Palestinian National Authority (PNA) sought to shake off sharp criticism Friday by a U.S.-based human rights group which condemned widespread repression, intimidation and torture by the PNA.

"It is no secret that Palestine suffers from human rights problems as do many nations and it is a source of worry," said Marwan Kanafani, a spokesman for Palestinian President Yasser Arafat.

"But violating human rights is not a general policy of the Palestinian [National] Authority and there is no doubt about our duty to punish those who commit violations," he said.

Palestinian Attorney General Fayez Abu Rahmeh rejected charges by the New York-based Human Rights Watch that PNA security forces had conducted hundreds of arbitrary arrests of Palestinians without trial or charges.

"The situation of human rights and of the security forces is very good, and any claim otherwise is politically motivated," he told Agence France Presse.

The 50-page report released by Human Rights Watch Friday painted a grim picture of human rights under three

years of rule by PNA, pointing to arbitrary arrest, use of torture, complete neglect of due process and "heavy-handed suppression of dissent and criticism."

"The pattern of intimidation, arrests and physical mistreatment has created substantial fear among Palestinians. Unless there is a dramatic shift in the PNA's priorities, the abusive policies that prevail today will be the blueprint for the Palestinian future," the report said.

But it also levelled sharp criticism of the U.S. and Israel, which it accused of "condoning" human rights abuses by Palestinian security forces in the fight against Islamists who have conducted anti-Israeli attacks.

"As the PNA has indiscriminately rounded up hundreds of suspected militants, both Israel and the U.S. have signalled to Arafat that they are little concerned with abuses committed in the name of Israeli security," it said.

Mr. Kanafani echoed this criticism. "Israel and the U.S.'s continuous demands for a crackdown against political movements are among the main reasons for creating such an environment" of violations.

he said.

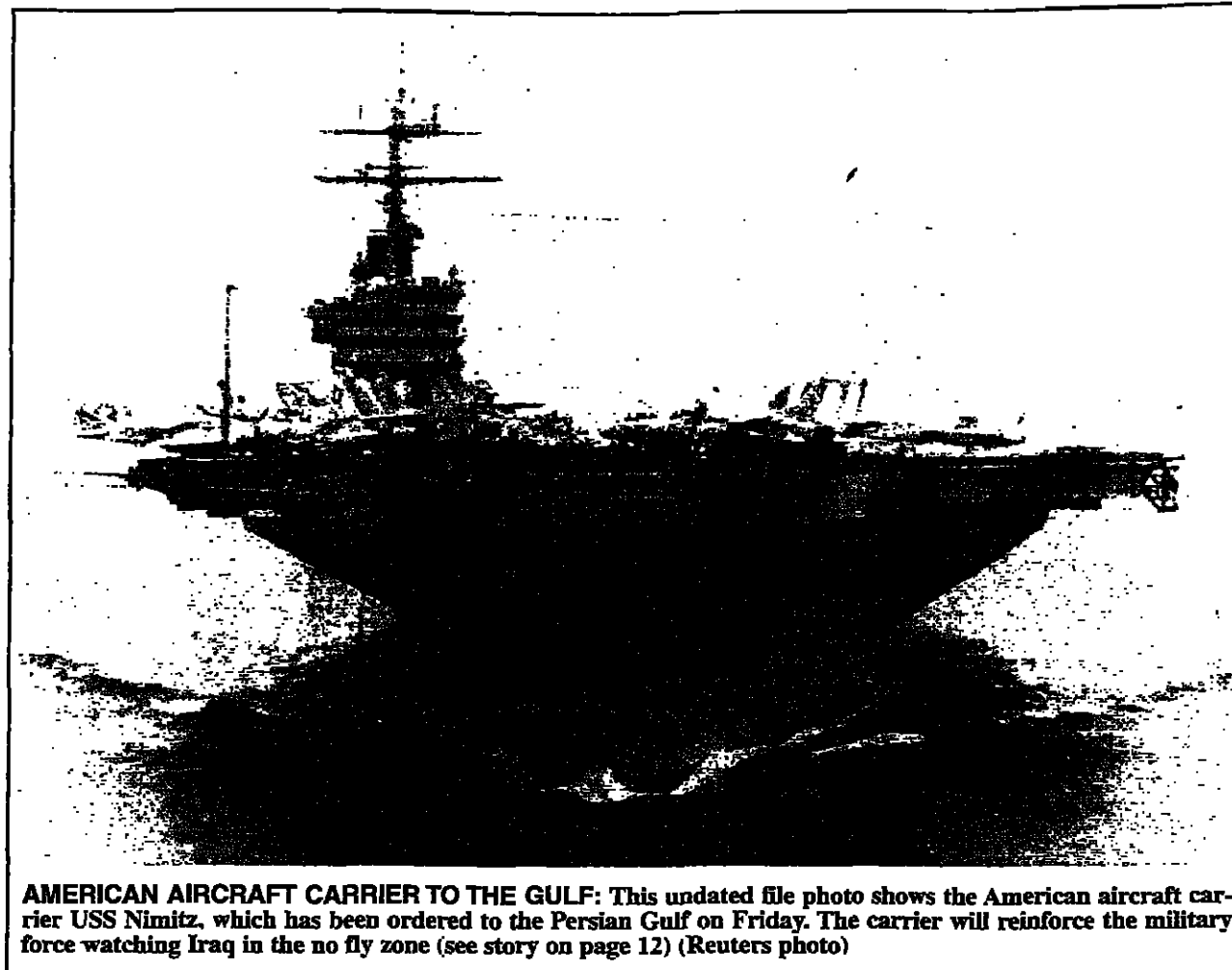
The PNA arrested thousands of Hamas members and other militants after a spate of bus bombings in Israel in early 1996, although most have since been released. It began a new campaign last week, arresting at least 80 Hamas members, after two Jerusalem bombings.

Mr. Kanafani also pointed to the difficult conditions created in the Palestinian territories by 30 years of Israeli occupation and the past few years of Israeli security closures.

He also admitted a "lack of experience of the security and judicial agencies, the weakness of supervision and the failure to punish human rights abusers."

The Human Rights Watch report criticised the PNA for failing "to incorporate human rights safeguards into law and to make the security forces consistently accountable."

The PNA's security forces came under the most scrutiny in the report, which noted that at least 14 persons have died in their custody and that most branches of the security forces — which number at least a dozen — have engaged in abusive conduct.



AMERICAN AIRCRAFT CARRIER TO THE GULF: This undated file photo shows the American aircraft carrier USS Nimitz, which has been ordered to the Persian Gulf on Friday. The carrier will reinforce the military force watching Iraq in the no fly zone (see story on page 12) (Reuters photo)

Kuwait crown prince warns of Iraq threat

KUWAIT CITY (AFP) — Kuwait's crown prince has warned that Iraq still has designs on the emirate, more than six years after a U.S.-led force expelled Iraqi occupation troops, newspapers reported Thursday.

The idea of invading "our beloved country has not ended until now in the mind of the Iraqi regime, which continues to prepare the people for a return to Kuwait," Sheikh Saad Al Abdullah Al Sabah said in the daily Al Rai Al Aam.

The crown prince referred to the October 1994 massing of Iraqi troops near the Kuwaiti border as the time when "the Iraqi regime prepared its army to attack the northern border of the state of Kuwait."

Speaking in London, Sheikh Saad also referred to "the need to be cautious and wary as long as the president of the regime (Saddam Hussein) governs Iraq."

The crown prince who is also prime minister issued the warning in comments to Kuwaiti MPs visiting London, where he has been convalescing from surgery in March.

Iraqi troops invaded Kuwait in August 1990, but were expelled by a U.S.-led multinational coalition seven months later in the Gulf war.

Baghdad's compliance with U.N. resolutions imposed after the war is closely monitored in Kuwait, where concerns about the Iraqi president's intentions still ride high.

Former Iraqi ruling party member executed for anti-Saddam plot, opposition claims

DUBAI (AFP) — A former member of Iraq's ruling Baath Party was executed Sunday for attempting to assassinate Iraqi President Saddam Hussein, an Iraqi dissident in exile said Thursday.

"The martyr Ali Hassan Alian Al Samarra, a former Baath Party member, was executed Sept. 28 for leading an assassination attempt against the tyrant Saddam Hussein, and his body has been turned over to his family," former General Wafiq Samarra said in a statement sent from London.

Gen. Samarra said Tuesday that four Iraqi officers were executed last week for similar reasons.

"Intelligence and special forces officers were executed at the end of last week after they were accused of conspiracy and attempting to assassinate dictator Saddam Hussein while he visited one of his palaces at Uja (south of his home town Tikrit)," Gen. Samarra said.

He identified the four as General Faruq Fahd Al Ali, General Fawzi Mahmud Samarra of the spe-

cial forces, Lieutenant Colonel Ali Ahmad Mohammad Samarra of the intelligence services and security officer Abdul Wahab Salah Al Darwish.

Meanwhile, a statement issued by an influential Iraqi tribe said 10 of its members were executed last month for attacking security forces in a town in southern Iraq.

The statement said the men were killed after a group of "young revolutionaries" from the Muslim Shiite tribe Bani Hjeim attacked the headquarters of the security services and the ruling Baath Party in the town of Samawa.

Some members of the security forces were injured in ensuing clashes with the rebels in the town, around 240 kilometres south of Baghdad, the scene of a popular uprising against the regime of Pres-

ident Saddam following the 1991 Gulf war.

"(The security forces) led a brutal search operation during which they arrested a large number of people, including women and old people, and destroyed homes," said the statement, sent to Agence France Presse in Dubai.

"Ten young men from the Bani Hjeim tribe were executed on Sept. 10 and their bodies returned to their parents," it said, adding that others were given sentences ranging from 10 years to life.

"In the name of all Iraqi tribes, we condemn this crime which adds to the long list of crimes by the executioner of Iraq (President Saddam Hussein) and which only reinforces the determination of Iraqis to put an end to dictatorship and oppression," it said.

with regard to handing over those who are sought," the statement said.

The official was quoted as saying that "cooperation between Libya and Egypt is continuing on finding out the responsible parties behind this issue."

It was the first Libyan response to the Kikha charges. The statement said it was referring to a report in the Al Quds Al Arabi newspaper. It did not mention a report in the U.S. newspaper Washington Post this week saying that Kikha was abducted and killed.

Iran, Egypt discuss Israeli 'threats'

TEHRAN (AFP) — Iranian Foreign Minister Kamal Kharazi held talks with Egyptian counterpart Amr Musa on Islamic cooperation to fend off Israeli "threats," Iran's official news agency IRNA said Friday.

The two officials also expressed their concern over joint naval manoeuvres planned by Turkey, Israel and the United States during talks on the sidelines of the United Nations General Assembly, it said.

"The two countries expressed concern over the growing trend of Turkey's military cooperation with Israel," the agency said. "The two ministers stressed that changing Turkey's behaviour would be a step towards Islamic solidarity against Israel."

The exercises in the Mediterranean were to be held in November, but have been postponed until early next year. They form part of a 1996 military cooperation accord between Israel and Turkey which has provoked criticism from Iran and some Arab countries.

Mr. Kharazi labelled Israel as the "main threat" to the Middle East and called for the region to be freed from weapons of mass destruction.

Lebanese, Syrian held on Cyprus drugs suspicion

NICOSIA (R) — Police in Cyprus have detained a Lebanese and a Syrian on suspicion of trafficking cocaine from Venezuela to Lebanon, a court heard Thursday.

Lebanese national Yiam Abu Chaaya, 45, and Syrian Manual Ayyout, 36, were remanded for eight days by a Cyprus district court in the southeastern town of Larnaca Thursday.

The two men, said to possess forged Venezuelan passports, are suspected by Interpol of trafficking an unspecified quantity of cocaine from Venezuela to Lebanon between Sept. 10 and 21.

Zurich and Cyprus were used as transit points, Cyprus police told the court.

Chaaya and Ayyout were arrested at Cyprus's Larnaca Airport over the weekend when they attempted to leave the island without declaring foreign currency worth \$383,000 in their possession.

While in custody police received a tip-off from Interpol that the two, who said they were in the clothing business, were wanted on suspicion of drugs trafficking.

Investigators said the cash police discovered could be the proceeds from the drugs deal.

Ben Bella opposes any armed intervention

BIARRITZ (AFP) — Former Algerian President Ahmed Ben Bella Friday spoke out against any armed foreign intervention to stop the bloodshed that has raged in Algeria for five years.

Though he denounced the situation in Algeria as a "total waste," he warned that "95 per cent of Algerians would refuse a strong foreign intervention" launched by outside countries or under the U.N. flag, saying this would "encounter strong resis-

tance on the part of the Algerian people" and "would only complicate things more."

Mr. Ben Bella, speaking at a press conference here, said however he would welcome "a moral intervention to denounce what is happening, to help Algerians continue living."

He criticised the international community for giving out entry visas to Algerians who wanted to flee the violence back home, saying he was optimistic about the chances for settlement

sometime soon to the country's conflict.

"I feel there is something starting to happen between the regime and the FIS (the outlawed Islamic Salvation Front)," he said.

The former president insisted a settlement must be found between the Islamists and the Algerian military, the ultimate power brokers in the country.

"Only this way" could peace be restored to Algeria, after five years of civil war with Islamic extremists that has cost more than

60,000 lives, according to Western estimates.

Mr. Ben Bella, 81, was Algeria's prime minister in 1962 after the war of independence from France, then became president in 1963-65 before he was ousted in a bloodless military coup.

For many years afterwards he was in jail or exile, and political observers say the party he now leads, the Movement for Democracy in Algeria, has little support among voters.

Libya says Kikha never returned

CAIRO (R) — A Libyan statement said that a Libyan dissident, reported to have been abducted by Egyptian agents in Cairo in 1993 and handed over to Libya where he was executed, had left the country a long time ago and not returned.

The statement sent to Reuters late Thursday by the Libyan News Agency office in Cairo said it was referring to a newspaper report about Mansour Kikha, who the U.S. Central Intelligence Agency (CIA) said was handed to the Tripoli government and executed.

Kikha, a former Libyan foreign minister and head of a Libyan opposition alliance, disappeared while attending a human rights conference in Cairo in December 1993.

The Libyan statement quoted an official spokesman as saying: "Mansour Kikha is a national who left Libya a long time ago and did not return. Libya has not spoken to Egypt about him. Libyan authorities did not ask for his [Kikha's] being handed over."

"If it had, it would have been done so publicly in line with an announced agreement between the two countries

with regard to handing over those who are sought," the statement said.

The official was quoted as saying that "cooperation between Libya and Egypt is continuing on finding out the responsible parties behind this issue."

It was the first Libyan response to the Kikha charges. The statement said it was referring to a report in the Al Quds Al Arabi newspaper. It did not mention a report in the U.S. newspaper Washington Post this week saying that Kikha was abducted and killed.

JORDAN TELEVISION

Tel. 773111-19

PROGRAMME TWO

14:10 Twinkle
14:30 Muppet Show
15:00 World Of Geo
16:00 The Valley Between
16:30 Beakman's World
17:00 French programmes
19:00 Le Journal
19:30 News headlines
19:35 Neighbours
20:00 The Newly Weds
20:30 Prism
21:10 Time Trax
22:00 News in English
22:30 Feature film
23:59 Ellen

PRAYER TIMES

04:10 Fajr
05:27 (Sunrise) Duha
11:24 Dhuh
14:46 'Asr
17:22 Maghreb
18:39 'Isha

CHURCHES

St. Mary of Nazareth Church
Sweifeh, Tel. 810740
Assemblies of God Church Tel.
632785.
St. Joseph Church Tel. 634590
Church of the Annunciation
Tel. 637440.
De la Salle Church Tel. 661636.
Terra Sancta Church Tel.
622366

JORDAN TIMES DAILY GUIDE AND CALENDAR

Church of the Annunciation
Tel. 632541
Anglican Church Tel. 652826.
Armenian Catholic Church
Tel. 771331.
Armenian Orthodox Church
Tel. 775261.
St. Ephraim Church Tel.
771751.
Armenian International Church
Tel. 5516245
Evangelical Lutheran Church
Tel. 824328.
German-speaking Evangelical
Congregation Tel. 845457
The Latter-Day Saints Tel.
654932.
Church of Nazareth Tel.
675691.
The Evangelical Local Church
in Amman Tel. 811295
English-speaking
Latin Catholics Parish Tel.
614190.

WEATHER

Bulletin supplied by the Department of Meteorology
Moderate weather conditions will prevail with winds variable becoming northeasterly moderate. On Sunday, temperatures are expected to drop. In Aqaba, winds will be northerly moderate and seas calm.

Min./Max. temp.
Amman 15/29
Aqaba 21/34
Deserts 13/30
Jordan Valley 21/33

Yesterday's high temperatures:
Amman 28 Aqaba 33 Humidity
readings: Amman 24 per cent.
Aqaba 35 per cent.

USEFUL TELEPHONE NUMBERS

NIGHT DUTY
AMMAN:
Dr. Muddih Mazahrah 820425
Dr. Wissam Hrayyin 748563
Dr. Muntah Al Qasbi 779939
Dr. Khalid Abdo 671129
Firas pharmacy 661912
Ferdous pharmacy 778336
Al Asema pharmacy 637055
Nairokh pharmacy 623672
Al Salam pharmacy 636730
Yacoub pharmacy 644945
Shmeisani pharmacy 637660
Najib pharmacy 847632
IRBID:
Dr. Ghazi Ta'ammeh 250080
Al Quds pharmacy (—)
ZARQA:
Dr. Salah Safarini 987565
Khalifeh pharmacy 985417

EMERGENCIES

Food Control Centre 637111
Civil Defence Department 661111
Civil Defence Immediate Rescue 630341
Civil Defence Emergency 199
Rescue Police 192 621111.
637777
Fire Brigade 617101
Blood Bank 775121
Highway Police 843402
Traffic Police 896390
Public Security Department 630321
Hotel Complaints 605800
Price Complaints 661176
Water and Sewerage Complaints 897467
Amman Municipality Complaints 787111
Telephone Information (directory assistance) 121
Overseas Calls 010230
Central Amman Telephone Repairs 623101
Abdali Telephone Repairs 661101
Jordan Television 775111
Radio Jordan 774111
Water Authority 680100
Jordan Electricity Authority 815615
Electric Power Company 636381

RJ Flight Information 08-53200
Queen Alia Intl. Airport 08-53200

HOSPITALS

AMMAN:
Husseini Medical Centre 813813/32
Khalidi Maternity, J. Amn 644281/6
Ajdleh Maternity, J. Amn 642441/2
Jabal Amman Maternity 642362
Malhas, J. Amman 636140
Palestine, Shmeisani 607071
Shmeisani Hospital 669131
Al-Muasher Hospital 667227/9
The Islamic Abdali 666126/37
Al-Ahli Abdali 664164/6
Italian, Al-Muhajreen 777101/3
Al-Bashir, J. Ashrafieh 775111/26
Army, Marka 891611/5
Queen Alia Hospital 602240/50
Amal Hospital 674155
The Arab Centre for Heart and Special Surgery 865199
ZARQA:
Zarqa Govt. Hospital (09)983323
Zarqa National Hospital (09)900560

Ibn Sina Hospital (09)986732
Al Hikam Modern Hospital (09)990990

IRBID:
Princess Basma Hospital (02)275555
Greek Catholic Hospital (02)272275
Ibn Al Nafes Hospital (02)247100

AQABA:
Princess Haya Hospital (03)314111

FOR THE TRAVELLER QUEEN ALIA INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT

This information is supplied by Royal Jordanian (RJ) Information department at the Queen Alia International Airport Tel. (08)53200 where it should always be verified. Information on other flights is obtained on telephone (08) 52700 or (08) 523250.

ARRIVALS

Royal Jordanian (RJ) Flights
06:00 Aden (RJ)
07:05 Damascus (RJ)
08:45 New Delhi (RJ)
09:25 Beirut (RJ)

09:30 Karachi, Dubai (RJ)
09:30 Aqaba (add) (RJ)
10:00 Colombo (RJ)
14:55 New York, Amsterdam (RJ)
16:15 Cairo (RJ)
16:30 London (RJ)
19:35 Beirut (RJ)
23:00 Paris (RJ)
01:30 Madrid (RJ)

04:30 Bangkok (RJ)

Other Flights
05:10 Jakarta (GA)
06:05 London, Damascus (BA)
09:30 Al 'Arish (PF)
12:00 Riyadh (SV)
12:10 Muscat, Abu Dhabi (GF)
14:05 Vienna (OS)
15:30 Dubai (EK)
16:00 Doha (QR)
17:25 Antalya (TK)
19:10 London (GA)
20:10 Paris, Damascus (AF)
21:15 Cairo (MS)
22:25 Beirut (ME)
22:45 Amsterdam (KL)
00:15 London (BA)
02:00 Rome (AZ)

Royal Wings (RW)
(No flights on Saturday)

DEPARTURES
Royal Jordanian (RJ) Flights
05:45 Beirut (RJ)

07:00 Aqaba (add) (RJ)
10:00 Berlin (add) (RJ)
11:40 Amsterdam, New York (RJ)
12:00 Geneva, Madrid (RJ)
12:05 Brussels, Amsterdam (RJ)
12:10 Paris (RJ)
12:15 Cairo (RJ)
13:05 London (RJ)
20:10 Riyadh, Dhabran (RJ)
20:25 Jeddah (RJ)
20:45 Bahrain, Doha (RJ)
20:50 Bombay (RJ)
21:20 Abu Dhabi, Dubai (RJ)
23:59 Aqaba, Paris (add) (RJ)

Other Flights
03:00 Rome (AZ)
03:00 Athens (OA)
05:50 Larnaca (CY)
06:10 London (GA)
06:55 London (BA)
07:10 Damascus, London (BA)
10:30 Al 'Arish (PF)
13:00 Abu Dhabi, Bahrain (GF)
13:30 Riyadh (SV)
45:50 Vienna (OS)
16:45 Dubai (EK)
16:50 Doha (QR)
18:25 Antalya (TK)
20:10 Jakarta (GA)
22:15 Cairo (MS)
22:55 Damascus, Paris (AF)
23:25 Beirut, Amsterdam (KL)
03:00 Rome (AZ)
03:00 Athens (OA)

Royal Wings (RW)
(No flights on Saturday)

DEPARTURES
Royal Jordanian (RJ) Flights
05:45 Beirut (RJ)

Other Flights
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06:55 London (BA)
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10:30 Al 'Arish (PF)
13:00 Abu Dhabi, Bahrain (GF)
13:30 Riyadh (SV)
45:50 Vienna (OS)
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20:10 Jakarta (GA)
22:15 Cairo (MS)
22:55 Damascus, Paris (AF)
23:25 Beirut, Amsterdam (KL)
03:00 Rome (AZ)
03:00 Athens (OA)

Royal Wings (RW)
(No flights on Saturday)

Queen hosts first international rare bird club event in Middle East

AMMAN (J.T.) — Her Majesty Queen Noor is hosting BirdLife International's Rare Bird Club's first international gathering in the Middle East, according to a press release Friday.

The five-day event, which will include bird watching at the Dana Nature Reserve, Wadi Araba, Petra, and Wadi Rum, will also raise funds for the work of BirdLife and for the Royal Society for the Conservation of Nature (RSCN), its partner in Jordan, the statement continued.

Queen Noor, who is honorary president of BirdLife International, joined Jordanian school children, members of the RSCN and of the Rare Bird Club at the Dana Nature Reserve Friday and held a dinner for them Thursday evening at Raghadan Palace. Queen Noor said BirdLife has helped "identify a global network of sites that are priorities for conservation of the world's biodiversity," the statement continued.

She added that in the Middle East, "BirdLife has identified 391 important bird areas and two endemic bird areas, and concluded that our region's complex patchwork of environments, encompassing some of the largest and most diverse wetland, steppe, desert, and marine ecosystems in the world, provide habitats for more than 800 species of birds. Additionally millions of birds depend on the ecosystems of the Middle East for



Her Majesty Queen Noor Friday visits the Dana Nature Reserve with members of the BirdLife International Rare Bird Club. Queen Noor is hosting the organisation's five-day gathering, its first in the Middle East (Petra photo)

breeding, staging or wintering sites," according to the statement.

The Queen, who is patron of the RSCN, noted that the RSCN has also "played a crucial role in developing BirdLife's programme in the region and in leading a popular national moment to promote awareness of environmental issues," the announcement read.

Jordan is actively involved in breeding programmes for globally-threatened bird species, including Marmaronea angustirostris (the Marbled Teal), Falco naumanni (Lesser Kestrel) and

Chlamydotis undulata (Boubara Bustard). Jordan also lies on a main bird-migration route between Africa and Eurasia and is an important feeding and resting ground for the spectacular spring migration of raptors heading for breeding grounds north and east of the Caucasus Mountains. Bird watching tours are organised by the RSCN and help fund the conservation of the country's nature reserves, the statement read.

BirdLife International is the oldest conservation organisation in the world with the widest

international network of conservation organisations globally. Its programmes include identification of bird species under the greatest threat of extinction and of the most valuable areas around the world for birds, where many species can be conserved at one site, according to the statement.

The Rare Bird Club, which was established by BirdLife in 1988, is presided over by Prince Bernhard of the Netherlands and comprises over 300 members including Sultan Qaboos of Oman, the statement concluded.

Government to increase engineers' allowances next year — Majali

AMMAN (Petra) — Prime Minister Abdul Salam Majali Thursday said his government is committed to increasing the additional allowance for engineers, adding that the increase will be paid as of Jan. 1, 1998.

During a meeting for directors of public works and housing, chaired by Minister of Public Works and Housing Naser Lawzi, Dr. Majali said the government will carry out a comprehensive survey of state-owned land reserved for construction of housing units before selling it to government employees and citizens.

Dr. Majali stated that the

network of roads in the Kingdom are of a high standard and called for constant maintenance of them.

He called for intensifying efforts to maintain the roads and for erecting warning signs to help ensure safety.

He stressed the need for maintaining close coordination with local universities to utilise their expertise in maintaining the Kingdom's roads and infrastructure.

To centralise planning and decentralise implementation, the Cabinet will take the necessary measures to assign the Ministry of Public Works and Housing to supervise all government construction projects.

Dr. Lawzi said his ministry's strategy for 1998 focuses on maintenance of roads and government buildings.

He stated that the ministry is in the process of finalising all the studies, engineering designs, and sketches for several government buildings, in preparation of the strategy's implementation, pending the availability of allocations.

Dr. Lawzi said the national network of roads, soon to be completed, links the various parts of the Kingdom, as well as connecting with neighbouring Arab countries.

Rotary Club governor concludes discussions on reducing poverty

AMMAN (Petra) — Means of developing Rotary Club services and supporting the government's efforts to reduce poverty and unemployment were discussed over the past three days during separate meetings between Governor of Rotary region No. 2450 Suleiman Qunb and several Cabinet ministers and government officials.

Mr. Qunb, who concluded his visit to Jordan Friday, said he discussed with Jordanian officials possibilities of increasing cooperation between the Rotary Clubs and Jordan, and establishing more projects designed to reduce poverty and serve the needs of local communities.

During a press conference Friday, he said the Rotary Club of Jordan has donated equipment to Karak Hospital for early detection of breast cancer.

He added that it has also provided support for polio immunisation, not only in Jordan but worldwide, in order to achieve the Rotary target of a polio-free world by the year 2005, which coincides with the centennial anniversary of Rotary.

He said Rotary Clubs have so far spent \$6 million on polio immunisation campaigns worldwide.

Mr. Qunb Thursday met with the ministers of information, health, and social development and discussed cooperation in various fields.

The Rotary region includes Jordan, Tunisia, Sudan, Lebanon, Cyprus, Egypt, and Bahrain.

Prime minister calls for neutrality in elections by officials, military

AMMAN (Petra) — Prime Minister Abdul Salam Majali Friday issued a circular calling on all government employees and armed forces and public security personnel to abstain from involvement, in their official capacity, in campaigning or other election-related activities in favour of candidates running in the Nov. 4 parliamentary elections.

In the announcement, Dr. Majali called on civil servants working in all government ministries, depart-

ments, and official public institutions, as well as local authorities, armed forces, and public security personnel to maintain complete neutrality and not support any of the candidates, in accordance with provisions of Article 64 of the 1986 Lower House Election Law No. 22, which aims to create the right climate for elections and ensure the integrity of elections.

The prime minister also called on all ministries and government departments to deny requests by staff

involved in the elections for leaves during the election process.

In a related development, the Ministry of Interior said voter cards will be distributed to all eligible voters beginning today and lasting through Oct. 30.

A spokesman for the ministry urged eligible voters to collect their cards, stating that voter card distribution centres will be open from 8:00 a.m. until 3:00 p.m.

The card includes the name of voter, his/her elec-

toral district, polling centre, and has a space for the voter's photograph, the source said.

He added that all voters should bring their cards to the polling centres when casting their votes.

However, he said, voters need to produce their identity card, if their cards do not contain their photographs. If the card contains a photograph of the voter, there will be no need for any other identification cards, the sources added.

UNICEF executive director signs agreement during visit to Jordan

By Hind-Lara Mango
Special to the Jordan Times

AMMAN — In her first visit to Jordan, Executive Director of the United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF) Carol Bellamy signed a five-year, basic UNICEF programme of action with the government and expressed satisfaction with having UNICEF's regional office located in Amman.

Lebanon, Ms. Bellamy's next destination, has indicated that it wanted to discuss the possibility of moving UNICEF's regional office back to Beirut, "but the likelihood of this happening at this stage is small," Ms. Bellamy told the Jordan Times, adding that there were financial and technical aspects to this decision.

During her two-day working visit to the Kingdom, Ms. Bellamy met with Her Majesty Queen Noor and discussed the adoption and implementation of the draft childhood act and means of improving the role of the National Task Force for Children.

She also held meetings with HRH Princess Basma

on the kindergarten services for Early Childhood Development Services, and conferred with the minister of social development and spoke of UNICEF's co-operation in the Productivity Programme.

Ms. Bellamy discussed statistical information with the minister of planning, and held talks with Deputy Prime Minister for Development Affairs Jawad Anani.

"We discussed the best means of implementing the rights of the child, maintaining and sustaining programmes in health and education, and providing technical assistance to the government of Jordan in seeking quality of life for children and youth," she said.

As for U.N. reforms and their effect on UNICEF programmes, the executive director noted that these changes "will not have a major impact, but will encourage a closer working relationship with no duplication within the U.N."

The reduction in the budget of Overseas Development Activities (ODA) is at its lowest since it was initiated, she said.

However, she said she

believed that "aid has helped in making programmes successful, but UNICEF encourages national and local governments to invest in people, primary health, and education," as economic growth cannot be achieved without all of these ingredients.

Commenting on the impact of economic restructuring programmes, she admitted that they have had a hard impact, but they are "something necessary for governments to do," adding that she advocated "adjustment with a human face."

UNICEF's present cycle of programmes in Jordan ends at the end of 1997 and a new five-year cycle starts in January 1998.

Areas of concentration will continue to be on children's health and basic education based on the 1990 World Summit for Children, she said.

"Jordan is moving quite rapidly toward improving the quality of health and education for children," she said, stressing that the challenge for UNICEF now is to help maintain this momentum and to look at new areas.

With the ratification of the Convention on the Rights of the Child, she said, Jordan committed itself to the implementation of children's rights in education and health, and their protection from violence and exploitation.

Don't Alopaeus, UNICEF's area representative, remarked that the nature of their work in Jordan has shifted from service delivery into capacity building.

She told the Jordan Times that UNICEF was looking into ways of sustaining successful projects by incorporating "Jordanian society itself" in supporting and expanding these programmes.

A recently approved, three-year UNICEF programme for Palestinian children in the West Bank, Gaza, Lebanon, and Jordan is a multi-country programme, said Ms. Bellamy. This programme focuses on basic health care for Palestinian children and is related to the availability of clean water, healthy childhood, malnutrition and immunisation issues, and the education of all children, she concluded.

Improper procedure prevents prison visit by human rights group — police

By Rana Hussein
Jordan Times Staff Reporter

AMMAN — Police could not respond to a request last week from the Arab Human Rights Organisation to visit a state prison, because the organisation did not name the prisoner it intended to interview, a police spokesperson said Friday.

In a letter to Prime Minister Abdul Salam Majali last week, the organisation complained that it had contacted the director of the Correctional and Rehabilitation Centres on Aug. 25 with a request to visit the

Salt Prison, after receiving a complaint from one of the prisoners "claiming he was subjected to torture and insult."

"We contacted the director of the prison several times requesting to meet with this prisoner and others after several newspapers reported that many prisoners were on hunger strike but we received no answer," Hani Dahleh, the organisation's secretary, said.

A similar request was made a month later to Dr. Majali to visit the centre, "but until this date we

received no answer either," according to Mr. Dahleh.

"If Amnesty International requested to visit any prison, [the prison authority] would have accepted immediately," Mr. Dahleh told the Jordan Times.

But according to the police spokesperson, the organisation's request "was not specific, because in order to visit the prison, they should indicate the names of the individuals they wish to visit."

"The normal procedure to visit any of our centres requires that the organisation or individuals wishing

to visit these premises identify who they intend to visit, but the organisation did not give names," the police official said.

However, Mr. Dahleh claimed that in the past, the organisation used the same procedure and their request was accepted.

"These are all excuses to prevent us from visiting the prison, but we will insist on visiting until our demand is met by the authorities, because our aim is to help the prisoners," Mr. Dahleh said.

Iraqi minister thanks Jordan for humanitarian aid, praises relations

BAGHDAD (Petra) — Iraqi Health Minister Omeid Medhat Thursday thanked Jordan for its support for the Iraqi people.

In a statement to Jordan News Agency, Petra, after receiving a consignment of medical and food aid supplies sent by the Hashemite Relief Organisation (HRO) upon directives from His

Majesty King Hussein, Dr. Medhat expressed gratitude to King Hussein for this humanitarian assistance, saying that it will help the Iraqi people overcome the ordeal caused by U.N.-imposed sanctions, which have been in place since 1990.

The Iraqi minister said the valuable Jordanian aid to

Iraq goes beyond the boundaries of material assistance to reflect the true feelings of fraternity between the two countries.

Dr. Medhat voiced hope that the current ordeal facing the Iraqi nation will come to an end, adding that the Iraqi people's steadfastness is unprecedented.

Ministry of Awqaf and

Industry Secretary General and member of the HRO Abdul Fattah Salah, who delivered the humanitarian aid to Iraq, said it is meant to alleviate the suffering of the Iraqi people, mainly children and students, and demonstrates the growing relations between the two nations.

WHAT'S GOING ON

DARAT AL FUNUN SUMMER '97 FESTIVAL

- * Graphics by Rafa Nasiri of Iraq, Ziad Dallout of Syria, and Najia Mehadjji at the South Hall.
- * Paintings by Jordanian artist Mohammad Qailoka at the Middle Hall.
- * Sculpture, drawings, and paintings by Jordanian artist Rajwa Ali.
- * Works by contemporary Arab artists at the Blue House.
- * Paintings by children of Zarqa reflecting on the problem of pollution at the Byzantine church.

FILM

- * German film "Die Andere" at Goethe-Institut, Jabal Amman, at 5:30 p.m.

EXHIBITIONS

- * Exhibition of Catalan masters of the 20th century entitled "Aura Mediterrània" at the Jordan National Gallery of Fine Arts, until Oct. 28 (except Tuesdays).
- * Quilt exhibition "Piecing It Together" by Ms. Virginia Harris at the American Centre, Abdoun, until Oct. 20.
- * Paintings by Faizma El-Helou at Instituto Cervantes, Jabal Amman, until Oct. 4.

Jordan
Times Fax
696-183

Under the Patronage of Her Royal Highness Princess Basma Bint Talal

The diplomatic corps accredited to the Royal Court will hold the annual bazaar in benefit of

Mabarrat Um Al Hussein Orphanage

on Thursday October 9th, 1997
at the Greater Amman Hall at Al Hussein Sports City
from 11:00 a.m. to 6:00 p.m.

Fifty embassies are participating in this one day event with displays of their countries' products and traditional dishes for sale.

Blair warns unpopular decisions lay ahead

BRIGHTON, England (R) — Prime Minister Tony Blair punctured the air of euphoria surrounding his Labour Party's annual conference Friday with a warning that unpopular decisions lay ahead for his government.

As delegates prepared to leave Brighton, the southern resort that has hosted the celebratory gathering, Mr. Blair prepared them for the end of the honeymoon Labour has enjoyed since its landslide general election victory on May 1.

"Tough decisions lie ahead on modernising the welfare state," he wrote in the Labour-supporting Daily Mirror tabloid newspaper. "It will not always be easy. It cannot always be popular."

Mr. Blair has appointed Frank Field, a member of parliament with a record of drafting novel solutions to welfare problems, as a junior social security minister with a brief to "think the unthinkable".

The Times newspaper quoted a government source as saying Mr. Field

was about to come up with a plan to force all workers to pay into a national fund to finance nursing care for Britain's growing army of old people.

It also said Britons might be forced to put money into schemes to give them a second old age pension to top up the basic pension paid by the state.

"The welfare state of 1945 cannot be the same as the welfare state of 2000," Mr. Blair wrote in his article.

Referring to his three years as party leader, during which time he has ruthlessly forced through a raft of policy and organisational changes, Mr. Blair added: "We modernised the party and now we must modernise the country."

"It will take hard choices and we will not flinch from taking them."

He was backed up by Deputy Prime Minister John Prescott, who told BBC Radio: "We can't promise everything. That's where the hard choice comes in."

Proof that Mr. Blair's

post-election honeymoon is still going strong came Thursday with an opinion poll giving Labour 59 per cent backing, more than the 44 per cent it polled on May 1 and one of the highest ratings ever for a governing party.

The conference has seen Mr. Blair getting his way on motion after motion. Only a vote on a proposal that Britain should scrap its Trident nuclear missiles Thursday came even close to producing a victory for his left-wing critics.

The meeting comes to an end Friday with a rumbustious speech from Mr. Prescott in which he is expected to contrast the upbeat mood in Brighton with the woes of the main opposition Conservatives.

The Conservative Party, ejected from office after 18 years in power, goes to its conference in the northern English seaside resort of Blackpool next week with a young, untied new leader, William Hague, and with a popularity poll rating of just 25 per cent.



German Chancellor Helmut Kohl (right) talks to former U.S. President George Bush (left) during a walk through Stuttgart city. On Friday Mr. Bush and Mr. Kohl visit the city during an memorial celebration about the seventh German Day of Unity (Reuters photo)

Germany marks Unity Day despite East-West gaps

STUTTGART, Germany (R) — Germany prepared to mark the seventh anniversary of its reunification Friday with celebrations across the nation and speeches in Stuttgart by Chancellor Helmut Kohl and former U.S. President George Bush.

Even though opinion polls and studies show wide gaps between East and West Germany in many areas, huge numbers from the former Communist East and the West were united in taking advantage of the holiday capitalist for a long three-day weekend.

Motorways were jammed, airports packed and hundreds of trains crammed with travellers heading to official festivals in Stuttgart and Berlin or to visit relatives or friends. Scores of extra trains called in by German Rail were unable to keep up with the demand.

Mr. Bush, the U.S. president when the Berlin Wall fell in 1989 and a strong proponent of a reunited Germany, was invited to address Germany's official unity day ceremony in Stuttgart.

Mr. Kohl, sometimes called the "chancellor of German unity", will also speak at the ceremony in this prosperous southwestern German city, better known as centre of the automobile industry because Daimler-Benz and Porsche have their headquarters here.

"We have to do all we can to make the conditions in East and West equal as quickly as possible," Mr. Kohl said this week. "I think the internal unity of the country is a lot further along than many people realise," he said.

Frustration has grown nevertheless in recent years both in the East and West over the high costs of unifying Germany and its 82 million people.

Taxes have risen and the standard of living in former West Germany has dropped as Bonn has pumped more than 100 billion marks (\$56 billion) each year into rebuilding the East while unemployment in the East has soared to 20 per cent from zero.

Easterners also often complain that Westerners

treat them more like a colony than an equal partner. East Germans also earn far less and work longer hours than their Western brethren.

"Germany is still a long way away from becoming a united country even if all the laws of the Western state and free market economy have been adopted in East Germany," said Wolfgang Thierse, a former East German dissident and now a leader in the opposition Social Democrats (SPD).

"It has not been a unification, but rather a restructuring of two societies," he added.

Another Eastern leader, Reinhard Hoepfner, the state premier of Saxony-Anhalt, said recently that the seven years of unity had done more to divide Germans in East and West than the 40 years of cold war division.

An opinion poll published Thursday found that most believe it will take at least another 16 years before Germany is truly united.

The survey of 250 members of parliament, journal-

ists, civil servants and advisers also agreed that the government had done a poor job of organising German unification over the last seven years and that huge economic gaps will linger for some time.

Another survey found that only one in two Western Germans had ever visited the Eastern states although nine in 10 Easterners had visited the West.

Finance Minister Theo Waigel said the government had acquired around 340 billion marks in debt with unification. Mr. Kohl's coalition government has come close to collapsing several times in recent months in a bitter battle on whether to cut taxes raised after unity to retire that debt.

Stuttgart is expecting as many as 500,000 people to attend the unity day festivities in the capital of the Western State of Baden-Wuerttemberg. The popular German rock band "Scorpions" will have performed Friday evening.

The Unity Day celebration rotates each year to a different state capital city.

New quakes rock central Italy

AREZZO, Italy (R) — An earthquake hit near the central Italian city of Arezzo late on Thursday, the biggest tremor since powerful quakes killed 11 people and wreaked havoc in nearby regions less than a week ago.

The Rome-based National Geophysical Institute said the quake, measured 4.2 on the Richter scale and was centred around the Tuscan city, some 80 km from the site of Friday's quakes, and Pesaro in the bordering Marche region.

Police said the tremors were felt as far as Florence but said there had been no reports of death, injury or serious damage to property.

State broadcaster Rai said residents of San Sepolcro, the closest town to the epicentre, poured out into the streets in panic but gradually returned to their homes as they were reassured by

police.

Earlier Thursday, new tremors hit several mountain towns in the Umbria region, including Nocera Umbra and Colfiorito, which were the hardest hit by last Friday's quake and are still practically deserted after residents abandoned damaged homes.

The two earthquakes that wrought destruction in the Umbria and Marche regions measured 5.5 and 5.6 on the Richter scale and have been followed by hundreds of after-shocks.

The quakes reduced some of the smaller mountain villages in the regions to rubble and also brought down part of the vault ceiling in the famous St. Francis Basilica in Assisi.

Relief aid officials estimated on Thursday that some 32,000 people are still sleeping in tents and campers because their homes are damaged or because they are afraid to return.

Boy pays tribute to Brazil massacre victims

RIO DE JANEIRO (R) — As Pope John Paul II drove past Rio de Janeiro's downtown Candelaria Church Thursday, a young boy set loose a white dove in memory of the eight street children who were massacred at the church four years ago.

Meanwhile, eight other boys released bunches of white balloons carrying the names of the eight death squad victims.

"I ask of the Pope to pray for Brazil and my dead friends," said Ricardo Pires, the boy who held the dove and whose cousin, Marco Antonio, was killed in the Candelaria shooting spree at the age of 16.

"We hope this tribute will bring peace to their souls and to many other street children and victims of injustice," he said.

The Candelaria massacre shocked the world and brought attention to the plight of Brazil's street children who are seen by some Brazilians as almost disposable.

Upon arrival in Rio Thursday, Pope John Paul spoke of the sad fate of street children in big cities as one of the greatest challenges faced by modern government.

The Pope has come to Brazil to preach family values and reaffirm the church's traditional views on abortion, divorce and contraception and help his Brazilian bishops fight growing disenchantment with the Roman Catholic Church.

Growing numbers of Brazilians are abandoning the Catholic faith to join the country's booming Evangelical churches partly because of the Vatican's conservative teachings, especially on family matters.

"What the Pope says about the family is fundamental, today more than ever," said Laura Cristina, 28, who waited for three hours in the afternoon sun with her nine-year-old daughter to see the Pope.

"It is an important message for young people. Today's youth is lost and confused."

Top British policeman confident over child sex law

MANILA (R) — A top British policeman said Friday he was confident a law that allows Britons involved in child sex cases abroad to be convicted at home can be successfully enforced in the Philippines.

Implementing the so-called "extra-territorial" legislation includes gathering evidence in a foreign country that is admissible in British courts. Chief Constable Tony Butler said.

"British courts would want to know that the evidence was untainted, and that witnesses were reliable," Mr. Butler, who heads the Gloucestershire Constabulary, told reporters at a news conference.

Mr. Butler said his meetings with Philippine police officials and non-governmental organisations had been fruitful.

"I am confident that if we have one of these cases, we are in good shape to gather the evidence," he said.

In the past few months, Manila and Britain have jointly cracked down on foreign nationals who travel to the Philippines to have sex with children. The United Nations esti-

mates there are 60,000 child prostitutes in the Philippines, where there are significant levels of incest and sexual abuse in some communities.

Two of the three foreigners convicted of child abuse in the Philippines have been British, although local officials say most foreign paedophiles come from Australia and Japan, some of them on special sex tours.

Philippine authorities have had some success in stemming the trade over the past few months because of a policy of prosecuting foreign paedophiles rather than deporting them.

Under an agreement signed between London and Manila, police from both countries exchange intelligence on known and suspected paedophiles. British police, accompanied by a prosecutor, would also go to the Philippines to carry out investigations in paedophile cases.

The agreement was signed during a visit by British Foreign Secretary Robin Cook in August. British police have also been training Philippine investigators on how to deal with sex abuse cases.

Rebels hand over bodies of 13 Sri Lankan soldiers

COLOMBO (R) — Tamil Tiger rebels have handed over the bodies of 13 government soldiers killed in a recent clash in northern Sri Lanka, Red Cross officials said Friday.

The bodies were handed over to Red Cross officials in the northern rebel-held Wanni region Thursday, who brought them to the government-controlled town of Vavuniya, some 220 kilometres northeast of the capital Colombo.

"The bodies of the soldiers were handed over to military officials at Vavuniya town late Thursday," a Red Cross official said.

The military earlier said 19 soldiers and 50 Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam (LTTE) rebels were killed in Tuesday's fighting at Kanakarayankulam, north of Puliakulam town, where the troops were confronted by a large group of rebels.

Brigadier Sarath Munasinghe, the military's spokesman, told a news conference Thursday that some soldiers were missing after the clash but declined to reveal how many.

"It is close to the number of bodies to be handed over, but for security rea-

sons I cannot tell you the numbers," he said. The military said they had recovered 16 rebel bodies, but it was not immediately clear whether they would be handed back to the guerrillas.

More than 100 soldiers were also wounded in the clashes. Meanwhile, five rebels were killed by military snipers near Puliakulam Thursday, military officials said.

In a separate incident Friday, three civilians were killed when rebels detonated a landmine underneath a passing military vehicle in northwest Mannar district, officials said. Four soldiers were injured in the explosion.

Sporadic fighting has been reported in recent days near Puliakulam, which lies north of Vavuniya and is on the highway to the northern Jaffna Peninsula which the military has been trying to capture in a four-month campaign.

The rebels are fighting for a separate homeland for minority Tamils in Sri Lanka's north and east. The government says more than 50,000 people have been killed in the war, which began in 1983.

Diana bodyguard leaves hospital

PARIS, (R) — Bodyguard Trevor Rees-Jones, the sole survivor of Princess Diana's fatal car crash, left his Paris hospital for Britain on Friday, the capital's public hospital authority said.

Mr. Rees-Jones, 29, was still unable to recall details of the crash when questioned for a second time Thursday by investigators probing the Paris accident in which Diana, her companion Dodi Al Fayed and driver Henri Paul died.

Investigators who interviewed him found that he was feeling better and wanted to go home to Britain. He had suffered severe facial injuries in the crash and underwent a 10-hour operation after the Aug. 31 crash.

When questioned, Mr. Rees-Jones was able to remember the moments up to when he put on his seat belt in the front seat of the Mercedes-Benz, just before it left the Ritz hotel where Diana and Al Fayed had a last dinner.

None of the other three in the car were wearing a belt. Mr. Rees-Jones, in the front passenger seat, was also protected by an airbag when the car slammed into a concrete pillar at high speed on a Paris expressway by the river Seine.

Mr. Rees-Jones also said that he did not notice anything unusual about driver Paul's behaviour — an autopsy showed that he was three times over the legal drink drive limit.

Mr. Rees-Jones' amnesia has dashed hopes that he could cast light on the role of photographers pursuing Diana's car on motorcycles.

Nine photographers and one motorcyclist for a photo agency are the targets of a manslaughter inquiry on suspicion of contributing to the crash. They are also being probed for failing to assist accident victims.

Investigators do not rule out the possibility that Mr. Rees-Jones might sometime remember more details of the crash as he recovers.

Investigating magistrates Hervé Stephan and Marie-Christine Devidal, who are leading the criminal inquiry into the causes of the Aug. 31 crash, were not present for Thursday's second questioning session.

The Gaston Cordier intensive care building where Mr. Rees-Jones has been since the accident is the same unit where Diana was pronounced dead at around 4 a.m. on Aug. 31.

Investigators had hoped the bodyguard would be able to shed light on the final moments before the crash, when paparazzi photographers on motorcycles raced after the Mercedes-Benz limousine as it sped towards a tunnel under the Place de l'Alma in central Paris.

Diana bodyguard leaves hospital

PARIS

Reed

Sunday

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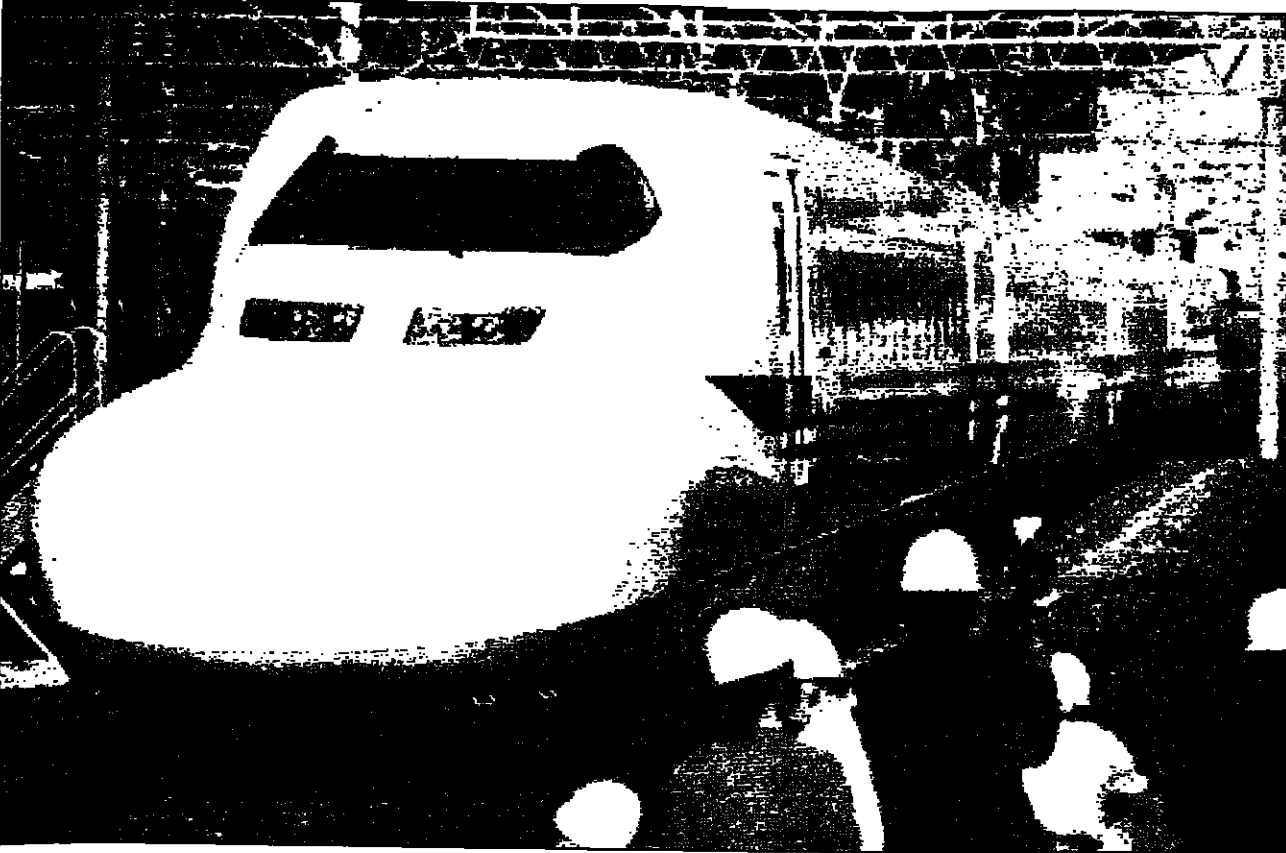
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WORLD SPEED RECORD: Japan's magnetically levitated (Maglev) train broke the world speed record for a manned train Friday when it clocked 451 kph on an experimental track west of Tokyo, a Japanese railway firm said Friday. With 16 staff and researchers aboard, the sleek, three-carriage MLX-01 train, which floats on U-shaped tracks using superconducting magnets, overtook the world record of 450 kph established in June 1993 by Germany's Trans-Rapid Train, said a spokesman for Central Japan Railway Co (JR Tokai). The MLX-01 also broke the Japanese record for manned trains set when an experimental shinkansen "bullet" train reached 443 kph in June 1996. The MLX-01, running on an 18.4 kilometre experimental track in Yamanashi, west of Tokyo, will challenge the world record for any Maglev train by next March. The current record is 517 kph clocked by an earlier unmanned Japanese Maglev model on a now unused, shorter experimental track in Miyazaki, southern Japan. In 1979, Railway companies envisaged building a new line for Maglev trains which would halve the time it takes for a train to travel the 600 kilometres between Tokyo and Japan's second city of Osaka to about one hour (Reuters photo)

Malaysia says smog respite may end if winds change

KUALA LUMPUR (R) — Malaysia's Environment Department said Friday that the clear skies over the country now could again be shrouded with smog from Indonesian forest fires if the current wind conditions change.

"What we know is that the worst for Indonesia in terms of the forest fires is far from over and that could mean we are still at risk," department Director-General Tan Meng Leng told reporters.

"If the northeasterly winds blowing through Malaysia now become less effective and bring less rain, then the (smog) could return," he said.

In Malaysia's eastern Pahang state, meanwhile, peat fires that had been smouldering for the past several days in a forest were mostly extinguished by an overnight rain, officials said.

"It's down to embers," Azman Mohammad, deputy head of fire operations in Pahang's state capital of Kuantan, told Reuters by telephone. About 20 firefighters were standing by in case the flames flared up again.

A lack of rain and the dwindling water supply from a nearby stream had originally hampered the firefighters' efforts. Residents of the area said it had not rained for weeks.

Malaysia's skies were blanketed for nearly a month under thick smog from Indonesian fires caused by the burning of thousands of hectares of



Indonesian servicemen help carry a hose used by a Malaysian firefighter (left) to extinguish forest fires in Bayung Lincir, central Sumatra as they combat forest fires that have caused an environmental hazard throughout Southeast Asia. One Malay fireman has been evacuated from the area since the particular group's deployment, as the fumes brought on an asthma attack (Reuters photo)

forested land for farming and other clearing activities.

Officials said strong northeasterly winds and monsoon rains cleared the Malaysia's skies, helped by the fire-fighting efforts in Indonesia. Some 1,000 Malaysian firemen were helping battle the fires.

On Friday, Malaysia's Air Pollutant Index (API) in Kuala Lumpur was at a "good" level of 50, said Mr. Tan, compared to the "unhealthy" and "hazardous" range of between 200 and 300 in the last month.

Malaysia declared a state

of emergency in its eastern state of Sarawak last month when the API there crossed 500.

The pollution has also had a major effect on Singapore, while spreading to neighbours Thailand and the Philippines.

Malaysian Primary Industries Minister Lim Keng Yaik was reported blaming Indonesia Friday for not taking adequate precautions and subsequent action to deal with the crisis.

"Indonesia realises the seriousness of their forest fires. The cause can be

debated but the fact is they (the fires) have to be stopped and... monitored to prevent future recurrences," Mr. Lim was quoted as saying by the New Straits Times daily.

"I have brought this matter up to the Indonesians at a bilateral forestry meeting five years ago and suggested then that they should have a monitoring system," Mr. Lim added.

But he praised the Malaysian fire team for its "quick action" in putting out the peat fires in Pahang that had threatened to burn out nearly 1,000 hectares of forest land.

U.S. shuttle, Mir crews bid farewell

LEAK JOHNSON SPACE CENTRE, Texas (R) — The crews of the space shuttle Atlantis and space station Mir bade each other farewell and closed the hatches between their craft Thursday evening, with a final joint task set for Friday, NASA officials said.

After Atlantis unhooked from Mir Friday morning, the crews will try to pinpoint the breach in the hull of crash-damaged Spektr module, NASA mission commentator Rob Navias said.

The Atlantis and Mir crews closed their hatches at about 6:45 p.m. EDT (22:45 GMT).

On Friday, Mir's crew will pump small amounts of air into the ruptured module as the shuttle circles the station at a distance of 73 metres, in the hope that the escaping gas will be visible.

"Given the proper lighting conditions, I think it's very possible that we might be

able to identify the source of the leak," shuttle Commander Jim Wetherbee said in a news conference broadcast from space.

Spektr, which was the home and work place for U.S. astronauts, was sealed off after an unmanned resupply ship slammed into the station in June.

Russian engineers suspect the compartment was holed at the base of the mast that supports one of its four electricity-generating solar panels. A Sept. 6 spacewalk failed to find any obvious signs of a breach in the module's hull.

Atlantis delivered to Mir a cone-shaped cap that could be used to plug the leak if it does indeed lie beneath the mast. The cap was stashed outside the station during a five-hour spacewalk from the shuttle on Wednesday. It would be fixed in place on a later spacewalk.

Since the shuttle docked at Mir on Saturday, more than four tonnes of cargo was passed to and from the two craft, and David Wolf took the place of Michael Foale, who had spent four and a half months aboard the orbital outpost.

"I wouldn't want to talk about how many tonnes of cargo has been delivered by the shuttle to the Mir. The most important thing is the two crews, American and Russian, are working together," Mir Commander Anatoly Soloviyev said at a farewell ceremony in the station's main compartment.

NASA's shuttle-Mir Programme Manager Frank Culbertson said Atlantis would leave the station in better shape than it was in recent weeks.

"It's certainly healthier now," he said. "We have a newly checked-out computer on board."

The shuttle was to depart the Russian space station at about 11:45 a.m. EDT (15:45 GMT) and head back to earth Sunday.

"I'm really looking forward to having a new adventure," Foale said of returning home. "I'm looking forward to learning how to walk again and live in my house with my wife and my children, get to know my wife again, date her again, maybe marry her again."

"Once I've done that and got my life basically reestablished, I would enjoy some of the hobbies that I enjoy, like windsurfing."

Wolf, whose mission went ahead despite questions about the safety of Mir, signed off a press conference with a tongue in cheek warning: "Be careful down there on earth. It's awful close to the ground and somebody could get hurt."

Yeltsin, opposition fight, no casualties expected

MOSCOW (R) — Four years after President Boris Yeltsin broke up Russia's hostile Soviet-era parliament and crushed a hardliners' revolt with tanks, suggestions are in the air that he may dissolve its successor.

This time, it seems more of a political farce, and the ammunition is words rather than bullets.

Mr. Yeltsin hinted Monday, and again Friday, that he might be ready to dissolve the state Duma (lower house) after its rejection of a string of draft laws drawn up by the government.

Opposition leaders, who say Mr. Yeltsin's economic course is leading to catastrophe, have threatened to call a no-confidence vote in the cabinet.

"One gets the impression both the president and the Duma are ready for decisive steps," said First Deputy Speaker Vladimir Ryzhkov of the pro-government faction Our Home Is Russia.

How far both sides are ready to go remains in doubt.

In September 1993, Mr. Yeltsin dissolved the Soviet-era parliament and sent tanks on Oct. 3 to crush the

rebellion by hardliners occupying the white house parliament building. Dozens of people were killed.

The Communist Party and its allies have announced plans to mark those events by holding rallies and memorial services, but the action lacks the militant spirit of the past.

Most analysts say powerful political players on both sides do not want to take things to the extreme and that radical forces are not powerful enough to cause trouble.

"Threats of a no-confidence vote and the dissolution of parliament are very like a nuclear bomb," one Kremlin analyst said.

"They are good for political bargaining but bad for practical use because the results could be unpredictable."

The latest bout in the war of words between Mr. Yeltsin and the Duma coincides with parliamentary debates on the government's annual report and the first hearings on the draft 1998 budget and tax code planned for later this month.

Only a few experts expect a major crisis.

"Throwing bills back to

Yeltsin — yes, issuing more threats — yes, but provoking the dissolution of the Duma — no," wrote the liberal daily Moskovsky Komsomolets. "Compromise comes first," it said.

The Communist Party holds 140 seats in the 450-seat Duma. Our Home Is Russia has 65, the Liberal Democratic Party of ultra-nationalist Vladimir Zhirinovskiy has 51 and the Yabloko Party led by liberal Grigory Yavlinsky has 46.

Communist leader Gennady Zyuganov finished second in last year's presidential election. He and his party's allies have a simple majority in the chamber, giving them political clout.

Mr. Yeltsin can dissolve the Duma if it votes no-confidence in his government or if it rejects three times his candidate for prime minister. It is also possible for the prime minister to precipitate an election by calling for a vote of confidence.

Kremlin officials acknowledge that dissolving the Duma and calling a parliamentary election ahead of schedule — the next is due in 1999 — could win the Communists

more seats.

But the mainstream Communists fear losing out to other opposition groups and some parliamentarians who fear they may lose their seats in no hurry to give up the comfortable life of a deputy.

"When the Duma Communists say they are not scared of early elections, they are slightly exaggerating things because they know that other Communists, perhaps from other groups, may come in after the polls," the Kommersant daily newspaper wrote.

Some experts believe economic reforms have split the Communist electorate, pushing the better-off towards more liberal Social-Democrats and nudging the poorer element towards more extremist Communist groups.

According to the latest opinion polls, the hardline working Russia led by Viktor Anpilov could win votes at the expense of the mainstream Communist Party. Working Russia only just missed getting the five per cent of votes needed to take up seats in parliament in the last election in December 1995.

Poland floods cost \$2.8 billion damage — official

WARSAW (AFP) — Devastating floods that ravaged southern Poland in July and early August caused damage estimated at 10 billion zlotis (\$2.8 billion), the government said Friday.

It also said aid for victims of the floods and for reconstruction reached three billion zlotis (\$860 million), of which \$40 million came

from abroad.

Andrzej Pilat, the official in charge of coordinating aid to the affected regions, said the biggest foreign contributors were Germany, Sweden and the United States, while charities and organisations such as the European Union also donated money.

He said Warsaw had started negotiations with the World

Bank to borrow \$200 million, and with the European Investment Bank to borrow 300 million ECUs (\$330 million).

Fifty-five Poles died in the floods in the south and southwest of the country when the Oder River burst its banks after heavy rain.

Roughly the same number died in the Czech Republic.

In total, more than 160,000 people had to be evacuated from their homes in Poland as flood waters covered hundreds of villages and huge swathes of land.

Mr. Pilat said the process of rebuilding homes was running late but that 1,900 families would be rehoused before winter.



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Priority for saving lives

WITH THE first rainfall, the number of road accidents in Jordan skyrocketed as if drivers were still unfamiliar with the dangers of slippery streets. It is well-established that the first drops of rain on roads covered with oil from vehicles would render driving hazardous. Jordanian drivers should have known that, and if they did not, perhaps the authorities who issue driving licences should make sure that drivers are familiar with such ABCs of the road before they are allowed behind the wheel.

Unfortunately such basic facts are nowhere to be found in the written driving tests administered by the Vehicles and Licensing Department. The conclusion? Driving tests should be amended to encompass wider guidelines on safe driving habits. Last week a bus carrying passengers on the road from Jerash to Irbid slipped and overturned, landing in a deep ravine. Five people were sensely killed and scores of others were wounded.

Material losses from car accidents after the first rain of the season are estimated to be in the millions of dinars. Above all, the loss of life might have been avoided had our drivers recognised the dangers of driving after the first drops of rain fell.

Despite the tragic results, we have not detected any public or official response that aims to highlight the hazards of driving in rainy weather, especially after an extended dry spell, and we have to face the issue all over again. But soon the extent of the rain will increase. Maybe snow will also fall. In more developed countries cars are obliged to keep their headlights on day and night to increase visibility during the winter. Again we are still far behind in this vein and do not seem to appreciate the importance of using headlights in winter driving.

There is still a great deal to be done to make driving in this country safer. The sooner we take more seriously the goal of road safety, the more lives we could save.

ARABIC PRESS COMMENTARIES

Al Dustour's Oreib Rintawi attacked Iran for the air raid it launched on targets inside Iraqi territory less than 24 hours after Tehran had issued a statement condemning Turkey's incursion into northern Iraq. Rintawi said that while Turkish forces say they are fighting resistance groups of the Kurdish Labour Party inside Iraq, Iran has justified its raid by saying it is striking against Iranian opposition groups stationed in Iraq. Both Turkey and Iran are giving themselves the right to raid Iraqi territory before the eyes of the world and before the U.S. which is still determined to maintain the unjust embargo clamped on the Iraqi people, preventing them from defending themselves against foreign aggression, said the writer. All justifications given by Ankara and Tehran for their incursions are obsolete and meaningless, he said. Instead, Rintawi said, they escalate tension in this volatile region. Iraq is one of several Arab and foreign countries which provided a safe haven for opposition groups from Iran and Turkey, but it seems that only Baghdad can not protect its sovereignty and territorial integrity from foreign aggression, he said. The writer said the loser in this situation is the Arab Nation, whose eastern gate is now almost collapsing, and whose leaders are indifferent to the consequences.

Al Arab Al Yawm's Taher Adwan said the resumption of the Palestinian-Israeli negotiations in Washington is meaningless because the Israelis have declared that Jewish settlement programmes in Arab lands will proceed. Adwan said that as long as Israel does not agree to halting its settlement programmes and refuses to re-deploy its forces in the Palestinian lands in implementation of the Oslo accords, there can be no use to renewed negotiations. He added that the Palestinian negotiators, who have been losing one card after another in their on-going talks with the Israeli government have nothing left to talk about except to demand that Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu abide by the Oslo agenda, something which Israel adamantly rejects. Adwan said that over the past six months the Palestinians have been steadfast in the face of Netanyahu's onslaught on the Oslo accords and have resorted to the Arab countries and the United States in seeking help which never came. The writer said the Palestinian negotiators are in their worst position now and all they can do now is wait for a miracle.

Jordanian Perspective

Is Israel playing for real this time, or is it another bluff?

By Dr. Musa Keilani

THE ISRAELI-Palestinian track of negotiations is now showing signs of life after a hiatus of more than one year and several false starts and bouts of violence which claimed innocent lives on both sides. But the key question remains unanswered: Is it the genuine thing this time around or is it another round of Israeli-orchestrated political aerobics?

Much as we in Jordan would like to be optimistic and look forward to serious and meaningful negotiations, the thought would not just go away that there has to be a catch in it somewhere. Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu's assertion that the resumption of negotiations came after he was convinced that the Palestinian National Authority was doing its best to curb militants does not ring true simply because it has been clear to the world at large that the PNA was indeed trying its utmost to check hardliners who could wreck the entire peace process with their occasional but spectacular acts of anti-Israeli violence. Netanyahu's insistence that he was convinced that the PNA was not committed to curbing violence, could not have and did not fool anyone except those who wanted to swallow it. Of course, given the present balance of power in the region, Netanyahu is calling the shots, and the Palestinians had little choice but to string him along to the point when he would decide to resume the negotiations.

In all probability, and despite all our hopes to the contrary, the Israeli prime minister's decision that the time was ripe to restart the negotiations is timed to send a message that things are back to normal on the Israeli-Palestinian track — one of the key demands of the Arabs as the price for their participation in November's Middle East and North Africa economic conference in Doha.

We could expect a media hype from Washington that the resumed negotiations are very serious and are making

concrete progress in all directions, and it would only be a matter of time before both sides worked out a viable agreement based on solutions to the basic problems of the Arab-Israeli conflict. But in actuality, we can expect that the Israelis would be leading the Palestinians by the nose in circles without actually giving them anything in return. Definitely the scenario backs up the American quest to ensure that the Doha conference takes place with as much Arab and international participation as possible to give legitimacy to Israel's assertion of itself as a member of the regional political and economic order.

The recent decision by the Arab League Council that it was the choice of individual members to attend the Doha forum fooled no one that it was an Arab consensus. The forces at work in Cairo during that meeting were more American than Arab.

As for us in Jordan, we have made no secret of our position that we would attend the conference by virtue of the fact that we have signed a peace agreement with the State of Israel and our participation/absence was not an issue that would determine the course of the overall Middle East peace process. Jordan has always been and remains a strong advocate of dialogue to resolve all problems. Obviously dialogue needs two parties, and as such, staying away from the Doha summit was not the key to starting dialogue. But that is our national position, which has been amply recognised and respected as such by the Arab League. We do not seek to impose our stand on anyone else and we would not accept anyone trying to do the same to us either.

We do have a piece of advice to the Palestinians: Do not let Israel lead you by the nose in circles while sending repeated assertions of normalcy in the peace negotiations. On the contrary, the Palestinians should demand tangible moves on the ground by the Israelis to prove their seri-

ousness and commitment to the resumed talks. This could mean an immediate resumption of the withdrawal process as stipulated in the Oslo agreement and related accords while negotiations continue on technical details of further phases of the process.

At the same time, it should also be made clear to the Israelis that if their objective is to ensure the convening of the Doha forum and Arab participation in the meeting, then they should not expect to have in return for nothing being given to the Palestinians. It is a simple give and take business, and Israel should not expect the Palestinians to be the sole givers, as the case has been in the peace process so far.

It is a game two can play and both can win, at least for the time being, and the Palestinians will be better off borrowing a few rules of the game from the Israelis.

The Arab World at large is convinced that a just and comprehensive solution to the conflict cannot be expected as long as Netanyahu and the likes of him remain in office. So, the best the Palestinians could hope for are bits and pieces of tangible gains until such time the political forces at work in internal Israeli forces would change the colours in the Israeli spectrum.

That is what the Palestinians should aim for and gain from the resumed negotiations rather than swift movements towards the so-called "final status" arrangements because it is there the real problems rest and cannot be handled by Netanyahu and company.

We cannot yet say what actually could be wrenched from the Israelis at this point in time. But it is clear the State of Israel is gearing to go to Doha and it should not be allowed to do so without paying the right price in advance.

Democracy is not coming to Serbia soon

By Gwynne Dyer

THE PROTESTS have begun again in Belgrade, and optimists hope that the Serbs will now finish what they started in three months of mass demonstrations against Slobodan Milosevic's autocratic rule last winter. Unfortunately, it won't happen. If Milosevic were to fall, even nastier people would replace him. Which raises the awkward but unavoidable question: what is wrong with the Serbs?

Slobodan Milosevic is the most unpleasant and least successful national leader in Europe. Since he came to power as the last communist ruler of the old, united Yugoslavia 10 years ago, he has caused three wars — in Slovenia, Croatia and Bosnia — that killed a quarter-million people and turned several million other people (including 400,000 Serbs) into refugees.

Of the six republics and two autonomous regions that made up Yugoslavia when he inherited it, four republics have already broken away and a fifth, Montenegro, is now debating independence simply to get away from Milosevic. The two autonomous regions have been suppressed, but one of them, Kosovo, is under virtual military occupation and lives permanently on the brink of revolt.

Serbia's economy is in ruins, and about 40 per cent of Serbs are unemployed. Milosevic now calls himself a 'Socialist,' but he is the last unreconstructed communist to rule any country in Europe. So why do the Serbs still put up with him?

Serbs, not 'Yugoslavs' is the right word, because apart from Serbia nothing is left of the old Yugoslavia except the tiny, mountainous republic of Montenegro — and there are 10 million Serbs to only 650,000 Montenegrins. And while it is true that the Serbian media, and especially the television, is almost entirely under the control of

Milosevic's Socialist Party, that still doesn't explain how he has been able to hang on. All over Eastern Europe people living in

It took the Bulgarians and Romanians a few extra years, but even they have finally got rid of the crypto-communist regimes that clung on in their countries after the formal demise of communist dictatorship.

similar situations, with their mass media totally controlled by the local communists, struggled free of tyranny regardless. They thought their way out of the web of lies they lived in, and then they freed themselves — usually by non-violent action.

Poles, Hungarians, Latvians, Russians, Georgians — they all managed to do it, although many of them had been trapped in the Orwellian nightmare much longer than the Serbs. It took the Bulgarians and Romanians a few extra years, but even they have finally got rid of the crypto-communist regimes that clung on in their countries after the formal demise of communist dictatorship.

Last winter, when tens of thousands of people demonstrated nightly in Belgrade for months, it looked as though the Serbs were taking the same road, but it was an illusion. Milosevic made a tactical retreat, granting a few of their demands, but he has now extinguished all the concessions.

What mobilised the protesters then was the regime's manipulation of municipal election results to deny opposition leader

Zoran Djindjic his legitimate victory as mayor of Belgrade. They made Milosevic back down and let Djindjic become mayor, and they also forced him to free the Belgrade television station 'Studio B' from state control.

But outside Belgrade there were almost no demonstrations — and the national television channels, the only ones that reached into smaller cities and the rural areas, continued to pump out shameless pro-Milosevic propaganda. The hollowness of the opposition's victory became plain last month, when Milosevic, legally forbidden to stand for a third term as president of Serbia, simply took over the office of president of Yugoslavia instead.

He has had rather more difficulty in getting his designated successor elected as president of Serbia, but pro-democracy Serbs can take no encouragement from that. Last Sunday, in the first round of the Serbian presidential election, Milosevic's nominee Zoran Ljilic actually ran second to the fearful Vojislav Seselj.

Seselj is a mass murderer who personally formed and led the Serbian death squads that carried out the 'ethnic cleansing' of Bosnian Muslims in 1992-93. He doesn't deny it; he boasts about it. And the Serbs will probably elect him president next Sunday.

As for the former 'democratic opposition,' one of the leaders of last winter's protests, Vuk Draskovic, has now formed a coalition with Milosevic's socialists and Seselj's party. It's not that surprising, really, for Draskovic is an ultra-nationalist too.

"We will make Serbia a political, economic and military superpower in the Balkans," he told a rally in Belgrade last month. "Serbs will not be refugees...I will lead them back to Knin, Sarajevo and Zenica (i.e., conquer Bosnia and parts of Croatia)." With the support of the dreaded

Draskovic, Milosevic moved swiftly on Tuesday to remove the other main opposition leader, Zoran Djindjic, from the mayoralty of Belgrade. At the same time, the only free television station, Studio B, was forcibly brought back under Milosevic's control — and when protesters ventured into the streets of Belgrade, the police beat them and chased them away with confident contempt.

Democracy is not coming to Serbia soon, and that is truly odd. The paranoid, self-pitying style of Serbian nationalism is part of the reason, but it seems inadequate to explain the scale of the failure. Milosevic's personality, mesmerising though it is, also seems too weak a reason.

Yet there is no better explanation for the perverse and self-destructive behaviour of the Serbs. History has not treated them more harshly than other Balkan peoples, though they all firmly believe that to be true. Even in their present self-induced misery, they are not having as hard a time as the Bosnian Muslims they dispossessed and massacred, or the Albanians they oppress in the province of Kosovo.

So what comes next? Most probably, the final phase in the disintegration of 'Yugoslavia.' On Sunday, the little republic of Montenegro is almost certain to elect Milo Djukanovic as its president — and Djukanovic has sworn to reform the undemocratic Yugoslavia 'run by one man and his family' (a reference to Milosevic's influential neo-communist wife), or else to leave it.

Since the little Montenegrin tail cannot really wag the Serbian dog, Djukanovic too will probably end up trying to secede from Yugoslavia. By that time, the Albanian majority in Kosovo may also be in open revolt against Serbian rule. It is not getting better in Serbia: it is getting worse.

A modest proposal

To the editor:

IT IS a generally accepted fact, even by the young, that government educational institutions have been finding it increasingly difficult, particularly since 1991, to cope with the ever-increasing student body at public schools, and keeping a watchful eye on private schools.

Among other things, Jordan's school systems, public and private alike, are suffering from the increase in the student-teacher ratio. Some schools, especially those which use school premises for two sessions a day, have such inadequate classroom space that 48 small pupils are divided into groups of four to share the limited number of desks. This is a naturally expected result of the, sometimes improvised, policy of seconding teachers to other Arab countries at the expense of our own students, and the brain-drain of 30 years standing, attributable to the country's economic strains combined with the attractive fringe benefits offered by rich neighbouring countries.

What makes the situation worse is that the Ministry of Education is averse to hiring teachers to replace those who have sought better employment opportunities abroad or those who have given up teaching altogether for more profitable "vocations."

The situation is not at all brighter at many private schools, many of which have adopted the unfortunate and unethical practice of bluffing entry-level teachers, especially those hard-up for the money, into signing a nine-month contract, thus depriving them of the summer vacation salary, which in any case is usually a humiliating sum.

Under such conditions, once these teachers acquire the necessary core knowledge and experience, they tend to seek their fortunes elsewhere. The consequence is high staff turnover and an eventual negative effect on the students.

Still, to do private schools justice, such practices are simply the result of the recession. What should be remembered is that these schools offer the country an invaluable service by saving the Ministry of Education millions of dinars by taking in thousands of students who otherwise would have been the charges of the state. A back-of-the-envelope calculation of the cost of each public school student shows the tab to be in excess of JD450. If the ministry charges the United Nations Relief

LETTERS

and Works Agency for the students attending the ministry's schools, why should not private schools, by the same token, charge the ministry for "its" students? The ministry need not pay the actual cost; it could pay a certain percentage of the cost, say 50 per cent.

Such a strategy would serve two main goals. First, relieving the Ministry of Education of the overload it has been shouldering for years, including hiring teachers, building schools (or renting them), printing textbooks at cost price, and equipping the schools. With fewer students and additional finances, the ministry would thus be better able to concentrate on quality teaching. Second, supporting existing private schools to help improve their performance by subsidising students. The upshot would be improved working conditions for their personnel, and incentives for entrepreneurs with the skills and qualifications to establish their own private schools.

Hani Yarid
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What makes a good school?

To the Editor:

IF WE look at our history lessons some of the most important things in life were not taught in glorious buildings nor by glamorous people. People such as Mahatma Gandhi, Martin Luther King, Jr., Voltaire, Plato, Karl Marx, taught their students in streets, in huts, near ponds, on beaches, and empty storehouses and left lasting impressions on all mankind.

The common factors each of these people had were a burning desire and conviction to an ideal, and followers who shared this ideal. These men had charisma. Their students were ignited by the search for knowledge and the quest to achieve.

If what is meant by a "good school" is good teaching, then I conclude good teachers are few and should be cher-

ished as valuable gems. Teacher recruitment must be a difficult task, for some people come in the unpolished form of a gem and must be recognised and developed.

If what is meant by a "good school" is good learning then I conclude the student must be committed to the ideal and have a desire to learn. Where the teaching and learning takes place is of no importance. The core of the situation is the teacher and the student.

Maybe we should be addressing the questions of how Jordan can develop teachers to their full potential, and how teachers can motivate students to achieve and learn, rather than dissecting the question of what is a good school.

Kathleen Awwad
Principal and parent at Amman Academy.

A jolt for the comfortable

To the Editor:

I'M ABOUT to listen to National Public Radio and then to watch CNN's WorldView. I will hope that this story on the Federation Internationale de Droits de l'Homme announcement of Israeli human rights abuses will be reported, but somehow I doubt it. Americans are given a very limited, Israeli-oriented perspective of the Palestinian suffering. Most people take their opinions from the most accessible form of information — television and radio — 15 or 20 minutes a day, listened to as we smoke a cigarette in our cars on the way home from work, listened to as we prepare our dinners, have a glass of wine, then prop our feet up in comfortable chairs. If we want more detail, we have to dig for it.

I'm not telling you anything you don't know, but I have this dark place in me that intuitively knows that the horrors of the Israeli lock on an entire people, if known to us comfortable Americans, would jolt us out of our cushioned chairs, spilling our wine.

Ms. Mickey Morgan
Director of Publications
College-Conservatory of Music
University of Cincinnati
Cincinnati, Ohio, U.S.

Crown Prince back in Amman after talks with U.S. president

(Continued from page 1)

rights of all parties. He said Jordan will continue to do all it can to achieve comprehensive and lasting peace.

A spokesman for the U.S. State Department praised Jordan's positive and important role in the Middle East peace process. James Foley said Prince Hassan's visit to Washington is a follow-up on the visit last month by Ms. Albright to the region.

He said that unilateral Israeli actions continue to undermine the credibility of the peace process, and that its unilateral actions in Jerusalem have a direct bearing on the credibility of not only the spatial aspects of the peace process but also on the confidence and security-building measures that should be kept intact in order for the talks to continue.

"The unilateral actions of the Netanyahu government are of great concern to us," Prince Hassan emphasised adding that the closure of Palestinian institutions in Jerusalem is a dangerous precedent that should not be tolerated.

The Prince also underlined that the interim talks should not put a ceiling on the Palestinians' demand for statehood, reiterating that Jordan fully supports the establishment of a Palestinian state on Palestinian national soil.

"We are for a Palestinian state, for the political sovereignty of the Palestinians."

for the symbolism of the focal point of Jerusalem," Prince Hassan said.

"We watched with concern the development in Ras Al Amoud," said Prince Hassan reiterating Jordan's rejection of Israeli settlements as illegal and a violation of international law.

He noted the major role King Hussein has been playing in efforts to bring about peace and stability in the region, pointing out that the credibility that the King enjoys on the regional and international levels has been extremely effective in achieving breakthroughs in the peace process exercising pressure for that purpose and helping the Palestinians.

Stressing that the refugee issue must be kept alive, the Crown Prince said, UNRWA, the U.N. Relief and Works Agency, must continue to shoulder its responsibilities towards refugees in its five areas of operation. He said the crucial meeting to be held by donor countries in September must ensure that the agency continues to carry out its mandate. The question of refugees cannot be dispossessed of during the incremental approach of the eight Palestinian-Israeli committees, the Crown Prince stressed.

Prince Hassan said in response to a question that the issues of refugees, water, Jerusalem and borders have regional dimensions that go beyond the direct Palestinian-Israeli track. These are

Jordan-related, Syria-related, Egypt-related and Lebanon-related issues, he said. "When the moment [for negotiating these issues] comes, we are expected to exercise our responsibilities."

Responding to a question on the release of Hamas founder Sheikh Ahmad Yassin, the Crown Prince said that Sheikh Yassin's release came in response to a humanitarian call King Hussein articulated during his visit to Zarqa last Monday. "It was a pleasant surprise to see the response take place the way it did," He stressed that Sheikh Yassin has the right to return to Gaza when he chooses to.

In response to another question, the Prince said that investigations into the assault on Khaled Misha'al, the Hamas leader, are continuing, emphasising that Jordan's record is clear in condemning and fighting all acts of violence and terrorism.

"Israel regards Jewish life as being the most precious determinant in any policy in which it engages. We regard Jordanian and Arab life as the most important national determinant," the Prince emphasised.

He said that in the absence of a process (of progress) and responsible discussions, it is clear that the possibility of further violence lurks everywhere.

Misha'al thanks King for 'major role in resolving case'

(Continued from page 1)

the government could not accuse any party until the investigation is over.

Dr. Majali said he would not describe the Sheikh's release as "deportation" adding that Israel was capable of deporting him a long time ago "if it wanted to do so in the past."

Dr. Majali said that Sheikh Yassin was free to return back to his homeland. He emphasised that the Israeli pledge that Sheikh Yassin received before his release, "declares that he was released and not deported."

"The release of Sheikh Yassin is a gain to Hamas and we are not involved in any deal to release him. This is a victory for our group," Mr. Misha'al said.

"Sheikh Yassin is not a deportee. He will return to his home soon," said Mr. Misha'al. He gave no date for the return of Sheikh Yassin to the Gaza Strip.

Israel released the spiritual leader of Hamas on Wednesday after eight years in Israeli jail.

The 41-year-old Hamas chief said that it was clear to him that the Israeli Mossad was behind the attack against his life and demanded that the two suspects detained in the attempt be tried in Jordan.

"Those who attacked me should be tried and given the punishment they deserve. The killers should not be freed," Mr. Misha'al told local and foreign reporters during the press conference he held at his home.

Two Canadian-passport holders are currently being held by police after a fight with Misha'al's bodyguards on Sept. 24.

The two suspects were identified by security authorities as Shawn Kendall, 28, and Barry Beads, 36 (see separate story).

All attempts by Netanyahu and the enemy leaders to assassinate Hamas leaders inside and outside Palestine will not hamper Hamas efforts to fulfill its political programme. Today my health has improved and my will has multiplied," he said.

The Hamas leader, who met Palestinian President Yasser Arafat on Thursday at the KHM, called upon the Palestinian National Authority (PNA) to put an end to the mass arrest of Hamas activists in the West Bank and Gaza Strip.

"It is strange that at a time when Israel is releasing Sheikh Yassin, the PNA

King, Arafat discuss developments in peace talks; visit Sheikh Yassin

(Continued from page 1)

Hamas leader arrived here "en route to the Gaza Strip."

The King said that he hopes the release of Sheikh Yassin will be the start of more positive Israeli measures in the near future.

He called upon the Israeli government to take serious steps that would push the peace talks with the Palestinians forward.

"I certainly like to see genuine efforts, genuine commitments materialised in facts on the ground. I recall many months ago, a message which I have sent to the

Israeli prime minister regarding many of the binding issues, issues that needed to be ratified and dealt with," the King said.

"I hope that time has come for them to be dealt with, so that the negotiations will continue beyond this stage on the foundation of [resolutions] 242 and 338, the Oslo accord and the Madrid conference," he added.

"We need more humanitarian moves... but I believe the human being has to feel that there is a change, has to feel that there is a genuine desire to help and move towards establishing peace between

peoples," the King said. President Arafat said that his talks with King Hussein were a continuation of their talks in Cairo, during a tri-lateral summit that included Jordan, Palestine and Egypt.

He expressed his hope that U.S. efforts will continue to "protect the peace process and to convince the Israeli government to fulfil what has been agreed upon."

The Palestinian president was seen off upon his departure by His Royal Highness Crown Prince Hassan and Deputy Prime Minister Abdullah Nsour.

Tarawneh calls on U.N. to end sanctions on Iraq

(Continued from page 1)

Saddam Hussein sent his forces into Kuwait in 1990.

Jordan maintained close ties with Iraq and is the only country allowed to trade freely with the Iraqis despite the seven-year U.N. ban. The U.N. exempted Jordan from the ban because most of Jordan's trade is with Iraq.

"The Iraqis no longer see any ray of hope of ending their suffering caused by

the blockade that has been imposed on them for the last seven years," Dr. Tarawneh said.

"Iraqis have suffered enough and tested enough bitter pain," he added. "It is high time that our international organisation move to alleviate their suffering and dress their wounds, so they may recover their livelihood and contribute anew to the development and prosperity of the region."

Dr. Tarawneh said Jordan

also called "upon the Iraqi government to fully implement all Security Council resolutions and to endeavour for reaching a solution for the problem of Kuwaiti prisoners and missing persons to pave the way for re-establishing normal and friendly relations among the states of the region on the basis of mutual respect for the sovereignty and territorial integrity of all states."

IAEA demands immediate access to details on Iraqi sites

(Continued from page 1)

"The IAEA has a humanitarian responsibility toward the Iraqi people... and should not allow under any circumstances, intentionally or not, famine and the genocide of the Iraqi people, the oldest civilisation in history," he said.

The U.N. sanctions committee last month approved six contracts for food imports to Iraq, the first under the

new term of a six-month accord allowing the country to resume limited oil exports.

But in New York late Thursday, U.N. Special Commission Chairman Richard Butler, the top U.N. weapons inspector, reported new incidents with Iraq over lack of access to suspect sites.

The 15-member Security Council has threatened to impose additional sanctions against Iraq later this month if Mr. Butler reports that Iraq

has continued to deny access to inspectors.

His six-month progress report on Iraqi disarmament is due to be submitted by Oct. 11.

Mr. Butler himself appeared to play down the incidents, however, saying to reporters that "they are not serious enough for me to go to the Security Council before we go there in a week and a half from now."

Rubin blames Albright slip on morning shows

(Continued from page 1)

things simple for the American public, because it's being watched in the morning," he said.

"There's a tendency to try to simplify issues in the morning," he said.

Ms. Albright on Wednesday told a 7:30 a.m. interview to NBC Television that Israeli construction of new settlements in the West Bank settlement of Efrat was legal, sparking a firestorm over what was seen as a new interpretation of the legality of Israeli policy.

"It's legal," Ms. Albright acknowledged in the interview.

The State Department has been forced to clarify her statements for the past three days, stating repeat-

edly that Washington has not changed its position on Israeli settlement activity.

The U.S. maintains that settlements are "unhelpful" and a "complicating factor" in the Middle East peace process, but it has refrained from any pronouncement on whether they are in violation of international law.

Under the Geneva convention, governments are barred from moving civilian populations into disputed areas. That provision prompted the administration of former President Jimmy Carter to declare Jewish settlement construction illegal.

The debate over the legality of expanding settlements comes as Washington is hoping to lay down guidelines for good conduct between Israel and

the Palestinians at a crucial meeting here on October 13.

The Palestinians are demanding that a halt to settlement expansion be one of those guidelines for observing a "time-out" called by Ms. Albright to restore confidence and get peace talks back on track.

Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu has rejected those demands.

Meanwhile, mediator Dennis Ross was to travel to the Middle East Sunday to attend meetings of Israeli-Palestinian committees that the sides agreed to resume following talks with Ms. Albright in New York on Monday.

The committees will deal with the reopening of the Gaza seaport and airport and on safe passage between the territories.

Canada says Israelis involved in attempt on Misha'al's life

(Continued from page 1)

list of Hamas leaders abroad to be targeted from his intelligence agencies.

The two men detained in Jordan carried Canadian passports in the names of Shawn Kendall, 28, and Barry Beads, 36, according to Public Security Department documents translated from Arabic.

In Israel, a 28-year-old Canadian of the name of Shawn Kendall and works at the United Israel Appeal and lives in Jerusalem denied any knowledge of how his expired passport had been used.

Talking from behind a closed door, Mr. Kendall told a CTV reporter: "I am the innocent victim in some screwed up situation and I would just like it to go away."

In Canada, Mr. Axworthy suggested that his country might take retaliatory action against Israel for allegedly allowing its operatives to use fake Canadian passports.

But he said no action would be taken until after he had met with Canadian Ambassador to Israel David Berger on Saturday. The government was under pressure from the opposition and the press to take a stern line on Israel.

"Where are the actions to prevent the illegal use of Canadian passports no matter how or by whom they may be?" asked Canadian

leader Preston Manning in parliament Thursday.

Canada's largest circulation newspaper, the Toronto Star, also demanded retaliation.

"[Israel] has played this nasty game before," the newspaper said. "Ottawa has complained before, but obviously not strenuously enough."

The Star suggested that the time might have come "to seriously consider terminating the hassle-free access that we give people arriving from Israel."

Norman Spector, the former Canadian ambassador to Israel and now publisher of the Jerusalem Post, told Canadian TV (CTV) that Canadian intelligence authorities "cooperate regularly with the Mossad."

Asked about this on CTV Friday, Mr. Axworthy retorted: "That's one of the most irresponsible statements I have ever heard. There's absolutely no truth to it and to suggest it is so is really creating great mischief and some security problems."

While in New York, Mr. Axworthy telephoned His Royal Highness Crown Prince Hassan in Amman and met with Minister of Foreign Affairs Faysal Tarawneh to assure them that Canada was in no way involved in any Mossad operations.

Israeli security experts said Friday that the Mossad, Israel's foreign intelligence service which

is considered one of the world's most efficient spy agencies, is in for a rough ride after its botched attempt to kill a Hamas leader in Jordan.

"This is probably the worst disaster in the history of the Mossad, and it is clear that both the agency's chiefs and Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu will be called upon to explain themselves," said Amir Oren, a leading expert on Israel's secret services.

"This operation showed up astonishing errors, not just in the failure of its execution but in its very conception," Mr. Oren told AFP.

According to Israeli television, the Mossad agents used a car rented by two Israeli security guards who were shot and wounded several days earlier in an ambush in Amman which apparently provoked the bid against Mr. Misha'al.

Israeli media said the two agents apparently offered full confessions to the authorities.

"Someone is going to pay for this catastrophe," said Mr. Oren, a senior military commentator for the Haaretz newspaper.

"I would not be surprised to see the director of the Mossad, Danny Yatom, lose his job, especially because he has a poor relationship with Netanyahu," he said.

Mr. Oren and other commentators said the prime

minister, who is personally in charge of both Mossad and the domestic security agency Shin Bet, was also likely to find himself under fire for authorising the Amman hit.

Historian Benny Morris, who has written extensively about Mossad, expressed doubt, however, that the Amman fiasco could bring down Mr. Netanyahu and his right-wing government.

"The opposition would have to launch an all-out campaign to topple Netanyahu, but in the past there has always been a broad consensus around protecting the Mossad and its operations," he said.

It is widely accepted that Mossad agents have assassinated numerous Palestinians, including virtually everyone involved in carrying out the attack on the 1972 Munich Olympics which left 11 Israeli athletes dead.

Such a string of successes, from the headline Israeli point of view, were gravely tarnished in July 1973 when a group of agents in Lillehammer, Norway, murdered a Moroccan waiter who was mistaken for a Palestinian leader.

At least two Mossad agents arrested in Norway in connection with the killing also used false Canadian passports, drawing a protest from the authorities in Ottawa.

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Israel forecasts higher unemployment

TEL AVIV (R) — The Bank of Israel warned the International Monetary Fund (IMF) that its forecast for the Israeli economy in 1997 was overly optimistic, a central bank spokesman has said.

"The IMF presented its forecast to us in March and we told them then that it was too optimistic. Even so, the IMF didn't change the forecast," the Bank of Israel spokesman said.

According to the forecast, Israel's gross domestic product (GDP) is expected to grow four per cent in 1997, while both inflation and unemployment will amount to seven per cent.

The Bank of Israel does not release its own forecast. But the government's Central Bureau of Statistics said GDP this year will grow by around two per cent, confirming the most

barish non-government estimates.

This marks a sharp slowdown from last year's 4.4 per cent growth and 1995's 7.1 per cent rate.

The treasury forecasts growth will pick up slightly next year to 3.1 per cent.

The statistics bureau also said it expected the unemployment rate to average 7.5 per cent for all of 1997, up from 6.7 per cent in 1996.

Israel's consumer price index (CPI) rose 9.3 per cent in the 12 months to August. Economists estimate the CPI will increase by 9.0 to 9.5 per cent for full-year 1997, putting the index within the government's inflation target of seven to 10 per cent.

Inflation amounted to 10.6 per cent in 1996. A delegation from the IMF will arrive in Israel on Nov. 2 to evaluate the Israeli

economy, the Bank of Israel spokesman said.

Meanwhile, preliminary figures show relatively sharp rises in Israel's industrial output and capital goods imports in the July-August period, the Central Bureau of Statistics said in a round-up of economic indicators.

The bureau said retail sales and merchandise exports rose moderately, while imports of industrial inputs declined and unemployment rose.

The bureau said that after adjusting for seasonal and other factors, industrial production rose at a 7.3 per cent annual pace in July, slowing from a pace of eight to nine per cent in the April-June period. There were no August figures.

Imports of capital goods rose at a 20.9 per cent annualised pace in August, slow-

ing slightly from a 22.0 per cent rise in July.

But imports of production inputs continued to decline, to a 4.8 per cent annual rate in August from 6.2 per cent in July. The bureau estimated unemployment at 8.0 in August, up from 7.9 per cent in July and 7.8 per cent in June.

Growth in merchandise exports excluding diamonds continued to slow from its May peak of 16.3 per cent to a 7.0 annualised rate in August.

Growth in industrial exports showed an even steeper decline to a 2.5 per cent annualised pace in August from a peak 14.2 per cent rate in April.

Retail sales grew at a 3.0 per cent annualised rate in July, the fourth month in a row growth was at this pace.

IMF says Japanese growth to be hurt by export slump

HONG KONG (AFP) — Japan's economic growth is expected to be hurt by the impact on exports of the slowdown in growth in Thailand and elsewhere in South East Asia, a senior IMF official has said.

Michael Mussa, director of the International Monetary Fund's (IMF) research council, told a news conference that the economic growth forecast for Japan had been written down a combined 1.75 percentage points over two years.

He said Japan had had been expecting 2.3 per cent gross domestic product (GDP) growth this year and 2.8-to-2.9 per cent real growth in 1998 on a year on year basis but a number of factors had prompted the IMF to write down its forecast to 1.1 per cent this year and 2.1 per cent next year.

"In Japan, we saw a strong recovery in 1996, but things have slowed recently under the impact of the rise in the consumption tax in April, causing some questions about the strength of growth in domestic demand in the remainder of this year as well as the potential negative impact of developments elsewhere in Asia on Japanese exports," Mr. Mussa said.

While there was an expected boost to activity in the three months to March in anticipation of a rise in the consumption tax in April, "there was also a crash in domestic demand in the second quarter."

Mr. Mussa said he did not think the situation as bad as growth data suggested as other Japanese economic indicators were not so negative, but there had been a substantial drop in domestic demand in the three months to June "and the third quarter also looks still weak on the consumption side."

That alone would cost more than one percentage point in growth of GDP for 1997 and its impact would continue into 1998.

Mr. Mussa said another factor was the Thai economic crisis and the spillover to neighbouring economies, which would have "an impact Japan that will be significant."

"There is going to be some negative spillover for Japan particularly on the export side from the sharp slowdown of growth in Thailand and still substantial slowdown of growth in South East Asia," Mr. Mussa said.

Revisions by the IMF carried out since the flotation of the baht July 2 sent the economy into crisis indicate that Thailand will lose eight percentage points in potential growth over the two-year period.

"The main crisis has been in Thailand," Mr. Mussa said, adding that it was too early to judge the impact on neighbouring South East Asian economies of Malaysia, Indonesia and the Philippines, which have also suffered.

"I think it remains to be seen at this stage how severely affected the others will be," he said.

There were also separate problems emerging in South Korea, he said.

"In the aggregate those countries are quite important export markets for Japan," Mr. Mussa said.

The IMF said in its semi-annual World Economic Outlook that China was expected to "hold up very well" and other countries in Asia were forecast to "perform positively," but it was anticipating a negative impact on Japanese economic growth from weak domestic demand and the hit on exports.

"Should growth fail to pick up in the second half of 1997 some fiscal measures will need to be considered to help underpin the recovery," it said.

The IMF said it did not expect Japan's key discount interest rate, stuck at 0.5 per cent since September 1995, to rise until the recovery was "firmly established."

Mr. Mussa said that there was also expected to be an impact on Japan's current account surplus, suggesting it may decline as a result of lower export demand in troubled economies in the region.

Kuwait heads for first budget surplus since Gulf war

KUWAIT CITY (AFP) — Kuwait is heading for its first budget surplus since the liberation of the country from Iraqi occupation in 1991, the central bank governor has said.

Governor Salem Abdul Aziz Al Sabah "indicated that the

state budget for 1996-1997 will realise a surplus, according to preliminary estimates, for the first time since liberation," the official news agency KUNA reported.

The main factors contributing to the surplus were buoy-

ant oil prices and the strong performance of international stock markets during the last financial year, the governor said.

The state budget has shown a persistent deficit since the liberation of Kuwait from the

seven-month Iraqi occupation in February 1991, which left a reconstruction bill of billions of dollars.

The government had earlier forecast a deficit for 1996-1997 of 1.51 billion dinars (\$4.96 billion) but this was based on a conservative oil price of \$13 per barrel, while actual prices averaged some \$5 higher. The deficit for the current financial year to end on June 30, 1998, is forecast at 1.584 billion dinars (\$5.2 billion), based on the same conservative oil price.

Kuwait's main source of revenues comes from production of two million barrels per day of oil, although the country's overseas assets also provide a steady income.

The post-war reconstruction bill slashed the value of these investments, mainly held in blue-chip stocks in Europe and the United States, to an estimated \$40 billion from more than \$100 billion before the August 1990 invasion.

The government announced a 731 million dinar (\$2.4 billion) surplus for the first six months of 1996-1997, and economists have been forecasting a surplus by the close of accounts.

HOTEL INTER-CONTINENTAL JORDAN A Jordanian Journey Through Frankfurt

WHEN THE red-rose city of Petra and the high rising skyscrapers of Frankfurt come together, a grand festival is bound to erupt. On September 30, 1997 a gala dinner was held under the patronage of the Minister of Tourism and Antiquities Akel Biltaji to launch the Jordanian Gastronomic and Cultural Week in Frankfurt.

Recently, Hotel Inter-Continental Jordan in coordination with Royal Jordanian Airlines embarked on a project to introduce the Jordanian culture and cuisine to Europe. Upon completion of the Jordanian promotion in Paris in September, Hotel Inter-Continental Jordan launched the Jordanian Gastronomic and Cultural Week in Frankfurt.

The gala dinner was filled with 250 guests, most of whom consisted of members from VIP circles, dignitaries, tour operators, and the press. The dinner was attended by Mr. Biltaji, the Jordanian Ambassador to Germany Hussein Hammami and his wife, and Suzanne Medinat, Area Manager in Germany for Royal Jordanian Airlines.

Guests at the dinner had the opportunity to experience the full Jordanian ambience. As soon as guests entered the Hotel Inter-Continental Frankfurt, they were greeted by the warm smile from the Jordanian coffee man who sat within a magnificent Jordanian tent. During the gala dinner, Gerhard Motrovitz, Hotel Inter-Continental Frankfurt's General Manager greeted guests and delivered a welcome speech. Mr. Motrovitz thanked Mr. Biltaji, Hotel Inter-Continental Jordan, and the Craft Centre for making the promotion possible. A special thanks was given to Royal Jordanian Airlines who sponsored the Jordanian chefs and the folklore troupe Ya Hala's flight to Frankfurt. In addition, Royal Jordanian donated two round trip tickets to be used as a lottery prize at the end of the Jordanian Gastronomic and Cultural Week.

Mr. Biltaji responded to the welcome speech from the Inter-Continental General Manager by saying how difficult it was to say no to the Inter-Continental Jordan when asked to attend the Jordanian promotion in Jordan. Mr. Biltaji gave credit to the Jordan Inter-Continental Hotel for being Jordan's foremost five star hotel and the pioneer in tourism promotion. Another motivation behind the minister's visit to Frankfurt was to target the German market and to encourage Jordan's attraction to German tour operators. In addition, Mr. Biltaji attributed the visit as a cultural exchange between the two nations. The Jordanian Promotion in Germany runs simultaneously with the Inter-Continental Jordan Oktoberfest which is being celebrated in Amman. Mr. Biltaji pledged a commitment that just as each year Germany brings the Oktoberfest to Amman, Jordan shall bring the Jordanian festival each September to Germany. The gala dinner presented a unique gastronomic adventure with Jordanian chefs flown in directly from Amman. A complete Jordanian journey would not be complete without experiencing the song and dance of Jordan. Guests tapped their feet to the upbeat sounds from the tabla (drum) player, the bagpipers, and the oud player. At the same time, people witnessed the traditional Jordanian debka (dance) from Hotel Inter-Continental Jordan's folklore troupe — Ya Hala. With each performance, Ya Hala brought a piece of the Jordanian heritage to life. The evening entertainment was brought to a closure with a fashion show presenting the traditional Jordanian dresses along with the new contemporary style. The traditional dresses were from the famous Kawar collection and the contemporary dresses from fashion designer Hana Sadiq.

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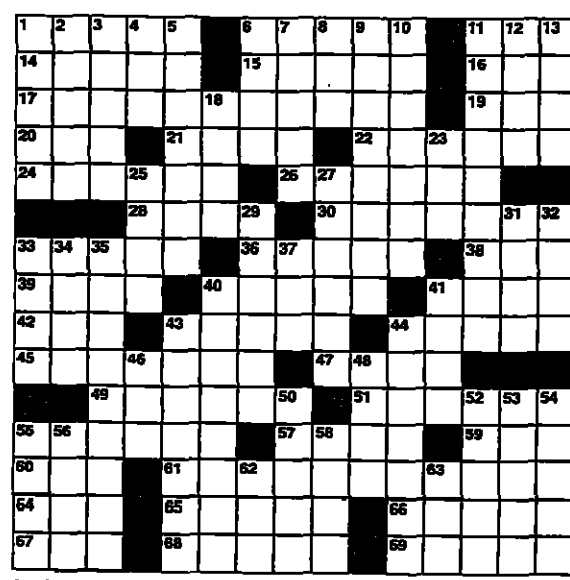
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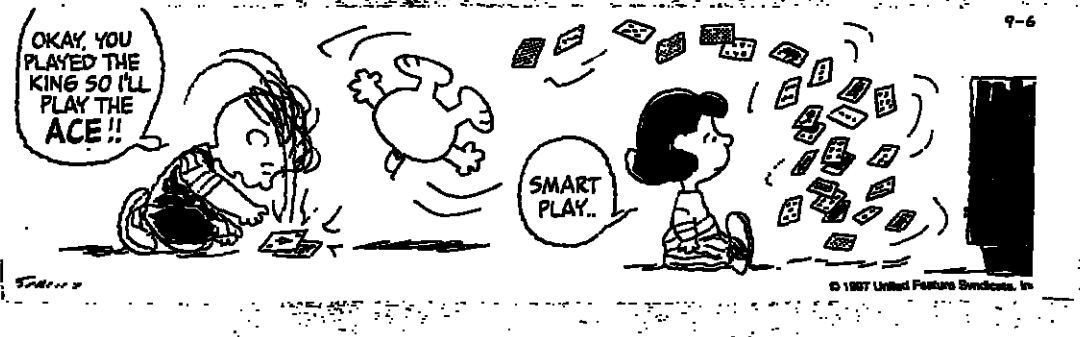
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38 Call — day
39 Chills and fever
40 Terrific!
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55 King of Mycenae
57 Moby Dick's pursuer
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65 Duck
66 Silly creatures
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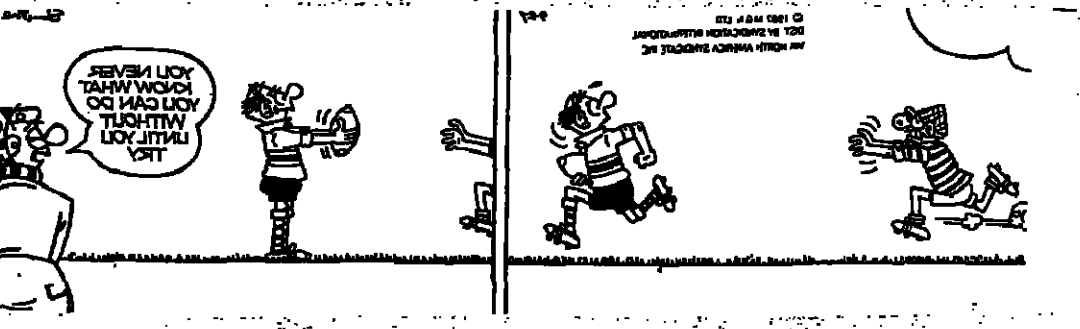
by Harold B. Counts

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1 Caravansary
2 Ornament
3 Provincial ones
4 Sign
5 Pounds heavily
6 Bard
7 French priests
8 River Sp.
9 Sailor
10 Manors
11 Aquatic plant
12 Jai —
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23 — gratias
25 Head of France
27 Potential
29 Ocean voyage
31 List under
32 Glut
33 Jack of early TV
34 Lear
35 Hero
37 GI's address
40 Spacecraft
41 Token, e.g.
43 Wakens
44 Trash
46 Poem
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53 — were the days?
54 Compels to go
55 Woe is me!
56 Wigwag
58 Roll call answer
62 Harlem room
63 Social

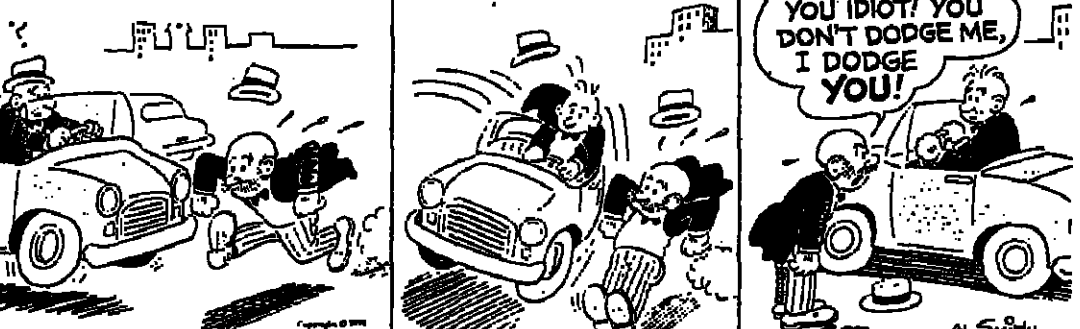
Peanuts



Andy Capp



Mutt'n'Jeff



HOROSCOPE

FORECAST FOR SATURDAY, OCTOBER 4, 1997

By Linda C. Black, Tribune Media Services, Inc.

ARIES

(March 21 to April 19) It's a great day for a triathlon. You want to get out and work up a sweat! If you don't already have something scheduled, call up a few buddies. There's also something your sweetheart wants you to do. Don't forget that or you'll be in big trouble.

TAURUS

(April 20 to May 20) It's a great day for bonding, as impossible as that seems right now. Family members aren't getting along with one another. Everybody's got a different opinion and agenda. Don't worry. Things are going to turn out well by dinner time.

GEMINI

(May 21 to June 21) You'll learn new games easily today. Your mental and manual dexterity is awesome. It's also a good time to fall in love. You could have an argument first thing this morning, but by evening you'll be better friends than ever. Fit in an excursion to a gallery or museum.

MOON CHILDREN

(June 22 to July 21) It's the perfect time to redecorate. If you're not sure what to pick, take along a Libra. They're great at finding the perfect thing to compliment your decor. You don't have to buy it new, either. Once you know what you want, you can make your own and save a bundle.

LEO

(July 22 to August 21) You've been champing at the bit for days. You want to go someplace far away, possibly to visit an old team-mate. You get along marvelously, but you haven't seen each other in ages. Well, what are you waiting for? Begin with a phone call. Maybe you could meet halfway.

VIRGO

(August 22 to September 22) If you work diligently again, you might be able to pay off some bills. There's money coming in and money going out. The challenge is to have some left over for yourself. Hide a little away so you can keep current on all the latest movies, too.

LIBRA

(September 23 to October 22) You've had three really great days in a row. Your creativity is high. If your partner starts looking a little frazzled, be available. Listen to the problem and offer your advice. In fact, your listening is more important than what you actually say.

SCORPIO

(October 23 to November 22) Since it's the weekend, you're thinking you'll get a break. That will happen, but not until tomorrow. Right now you still have to toe the line. Take care of somebody who's demanding. If you can provide what's needed before the person asks for it, you'll make lots of points.

SAGITTARIUS

(November 23 to December 22) You may be falling in love again right now. Congratulations, especially if it's with somebody you've loved for years. That's the best way. If you don't have anybody, consider a friend. Somebody who used to be interested in other things may have a change of heart.

CAPRICORN

(December 23 to January 20) For you, it's a big waste of time to goof off when you could be doing something productive. You may have a bit of conflict with your loved ones over this very issue today. If so, let them go. You can stay home and cheerfully generate enough cash to pay for their excursion.

AQUARIUS

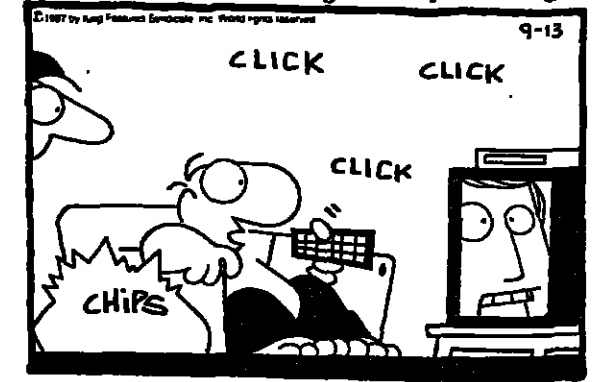
(January 21 to February 19) Generally, you're feeling great. You and your sweetheart may get into an argument, however. Instead of turning away, listen. You may have to get part of the lesson the hard way, but that's all right. If you make time to care, you'll get back on the same track.

PISCES

(February 20 to March 20) If you're not in business for yourself yet, think about it. What could you make that other people would want to buy? How much would it cost you? What could you sell for? You don't have to find the perfect job out there. You can create it.

Birthstone of October: Opal — Tourmaline

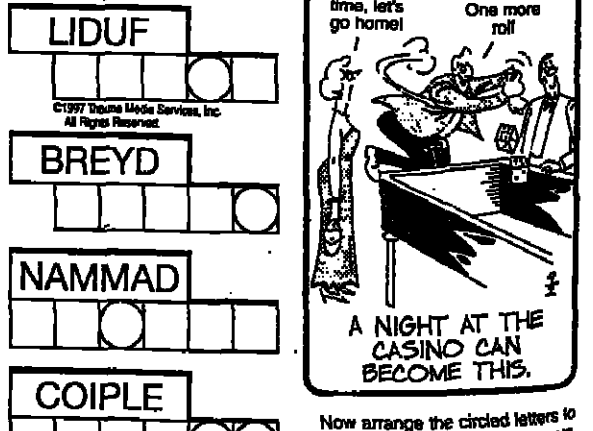
THE BETTER HALF. By Glasbergen



"The first ten minutes are my warm-up period. After that I can safely do my high-intensity channel changing."

JUMBLE. THAT SCRAMBLED WORD GAME

Unscramble these four Jumbles, one letter to each square, to form four ordinary words.



Print answer here: _____

Yesterday's Jumbles: LINEN KNACK BRONCO WHITTEN
Answer: What the telephone operator wrote at the party — A CONNECTION

Business & Finance

calls on

down to

The Business of

DAJANI

STUDIO

Develop your

of our shop

JUMBLE

30% discount

Free

20 x 30 cm

Shredded

Ordinary

Phone

Swedish

Daily Beat

A review of news from the Arabic press

Banker calls on senior officials to come down to world of reality

**** JORDAN NATIONAL Bank General Manager Wasef Azar has called on the political, administrative and economic leaderships to come down from their ivory towers to the world of reality and rectify irregularities. He said in a recent lecture that repeated requests to the executive authorities to provide facilities to investors do not solve the problem because most, if not all administrations insist on impeding, complicating and delaying investment activities in all aspects.**

Mr. Azar stressed the importance of having a clear understanding about the government role and noted that such a role is still important and probably much more needed than any time before. He explained that the people are more aware and more demanding and that solving the problems of poverty, unemployment and limited job opportunities is vital and central for social and political stability. "As such, widening the investment base is an urgent matter and very important," he emphasized.

The banker said that since the private sector is not capable or not moving to invest at the needed pace or suitable level, then government intervention or participation becomes necessary to activate investment and push the development cycle. "The government factor becomes necessary especially when the package of economics laws has not been sufficient alone to achieve the required level of sustainable and accelerating development," he pointed out.

"If the situation is as such, that should not mean the government's incapability to relinquish its equity from an institution or a company," Mr. Azar indicated stressing that that could be necessary to provide needed financing for the government to enter new investment opportunities, in cooperation with the private sector, for developing sectors where technical partners are involved.

Mr. Azar saw it as extremely dangerous if the government uses proceeds of equity sales for recurrent spending because that means consuming the wealth that accumulated over many years and decades. He also found the sales of government equities to be lacking transparency and publicity. "No one knows anything about the fate of the proceeds from selling the mobile phone services and it seems that governments do not have a clear and announced policy in this regard," he said (Al Aswaj)

REUTERS

REUTERS

The Business of Information

Major Currencies & Cross Rates

Currency	USD	DEM	GBP	CHF	JPY	CAD	ITL	FRF
US Dollar	-	1.7593	0.6204	1.4488	121.91	1.3713	1724.70	1.9836
DE Mark	0.5684	-	0.3524	0.8233	69.30	0.7793	979.44	1.1289
GB Sterling	1.6118	2.8378	-	2.3348	198.61	2.2103	2780.22	3.1976
CH Franc	0.6902	1.2138	0.4277	-	84.13	0.9458	1189.28	136.99
JP Yen	0.0082	1.4425	0.5084	1.1878	-	1.1244	14.13	162.53
CA Dollar	0.7282	1.2699	0.4467	1.0477	1.12	-	1243.55	1.4306
IT Lira	0.0006	1.0201	0.3595	0.0840	1415.83	0.7951	-	11.49
NL Guilder	0.5041	88.69	0.3128	73.07	61.45	0.6915	868.90	-
FR Franc	0.1689	0.2971	0.1047	24.4698	20.58	0.2316	33.48	33.4800

Middle Eastern Currencies

Currency	USD	JOD	SAR	BAH	QAT	KUW	AED	ADP	EGP
US Dollar	-	0.7090	3.7506	0.3770	3.6398	0.3042	3.6729	1536.00	3.3985
Jordan Dinar	1.4104	-	5.2900	0.5317	5.1337	0.4281	5.1804	2168.43	4.7934
Saudi Riyal	0.2668	0.1890	-	0.1005	0.07	0.0811	0.08	409.53	0.9081
Bahrain Dinar	2.65	1.8907	9.9488	-	9.95	0.8069	9.74	4074.38	9.0148
Qatar Dinar	0.2747	0.1948	1.0304	1.0304	-	0.0836	1.01	422.00	0.9337
Kuwait Dinar	3.2873	2.3307	12.3294	1.2393	11.97	-	12.07	5049.31	0.9337
Emirates Dinar	0.2723	0.1930	1.0212	1.0206	0.9910	0.0828	-	418.20	0.9253
Lebanese/1000	0.65	0.4616	2.4418	0.2454	2.3697	0.1980	2.3912	-	2.2125
Egyptian	0.2942	0.2088	1.1035	0.1109	1.0710	0.0895	1.0807	451.98	-

Energy

Oil	Last	Previous
Brent	21.58	20.46
W. Texa	22.58	21.79
Bonny	21.58	20.46
Dubai	19.20	19.19
UL Gas	187.00	187.00

Mid-East Currencies

Currency	USD	DEM	GBP	CHF	JPY
SA Riyal	0.2668	0.4693	0.1654	0.3864	32.517
AE Dirham	0.2723	0.4792	0.1689	0.3948	33.205
KW Dinar	3.2873	5.787	2.0396	4.7642	400.98
BH Dinar	0.3770	4.6685	1.8458	3.8447	323.52
CY Pound	1.9143	3.369	1.1876	2.7745	233.49

Metal Prices

Metal	Bid	Offer
Gold (oz's)	333.3	333.6
Silver (oz's)	5.21	5.23
Platinum (oz's)	427	429
AL (3 Months)	1853	1853
CU (3 Months)	2070	2071
Zinc (3 Months)	1348	1349
Lead (3 Months)	820	821
NI (3 Months)	6720	6730

Currency Deposit Rates (Bid)

Period	1 Month	3 Months	6 Months	1 Year
USD	5.50	5.59	5.65	5.78
GBP	7.15	7.06	7.19	7.31
JPY	0.42	0.41	0.45	0.50
DEM	3.15	3.27	3.48	3.73
FRF	3.18	3.31	3.41	3.54
CHF	1.26	1.48	1.43	1.68
ITL	6.48	6.28	6.03	5.75

Energy

Commodity	Last	Delivery
Coffee (c/lbs)	167.33	Spot
Cocoa (\$/ton)	1704	Spot
Sugar (\$/ton)	304.5	Spot
Wheat (\$/ton)	136	Spot
Soya (c/lbs)	23.55	Spot
Tea (stg/kg)	154	Spot
Barley (\$/bsh)	0	Spot
Rice (\$/ton)	430	Spot

JOD Cross Rates

Currency	Buy	Sell
US Dollar	0.708	0.710
GB Sterling	1.1429	1.1486
DE Mark	0.3988	0.4006
CH Franc	0.4847	0.4871
FR Franc	0.1188	0.1192
JP Yen	0.5854	0.5883
NI Guilder	0.3539	0.3557
IT Lira	0.406	0.408

Source: Central Bank of Jordan

AMMAN FINANCIAL MARKET

During the last 3 weeks	Company Name	P/E	Div	No. of Shares	No. of Contracts	Value Traded JD	Opening Price	High	Low	Closing Price	Change	Average Price	Turnover	No. of Trades
246,000	328,000 ARAB BANK	15.5	1.18	80	4100	1389905	325.00	341.00	335.00	338.00	+3.00	338.757	0.093	4
2,100	1,928 JOR. NATIONAL BK.	0.00	0.00	178	317557	612897	1.92	1.96	1.92	1.95	-0.01	1.930	0.756	5
5,000	5,000 CAIRO AMMAN BANK	10.3	3.00	1	50	250	5.00	5.00	5.00	5.00	-	5.000	0.001	1
3,050	3,000 BANK OF JORDAN	6.2	0.00	6	1892	5621	3.00	2.99	2.95	2.95	-0.05	2.971	0.018	2
930	890 MID-EAST INV. BK.	64.4	0.00	43	14100	13716	32.00	32.00	32.00	32.00	-	32.000	0.000	1
2,340	2,240 INDUSTRIAL DEV. BK.	9.7	6.48	112	61876	151188	2.34	2.34	2.33	2.34	-0.01	2.343	0.531	5
5,000	4,750 THE HOUSING BK.	14.7	3.94	17	5826	28779	4.95	4.96	4.92	4.92	-0.03	4.940	0.023	5
3,300	3,100 JOR. RUMAYT BANK	11.4	0.00	4	310	983	3.14	3.20	3.15	3.20	+0.05	3.171	0.003	2
780	740 JOR. GULF BANK	5.1	4.24	116	101500	84961	7.8	8.2	7.6	8.0	+0.10	8.077	0.508	5
3,600	3,550 ARAB JOR. INV. BK.	17.3	0.00	1	300	1080	3.55	3.60	3.60	3.60	+0.05	3.600	0.003	1
3,900	3,740 JOR. ISLAMIC BANK	15.1	3.23	199	161961	596026	3.76	3.76	3.62	3.71	-0.05	3.680	1.110	5
3,620	3,360 JOR. INV. FID. BANK	22.8	0.00	7	2197	7817	3.62	3.69	3.50	3.55	-0.07	3.558	0.022	3
1,980	1,890 BRIT. AL. HAL. (BEIRUT)	14.13	0.00	8	1350	1235	1.92	1.93	1.91	1.93	+0.01	1.915	0.068	4
4,460	4,240 ARAB BANKING CO.	18.6	0.00	3	200	1203	4.25	4.48	3.85	3.85	-0.40	4.010	0.003	2

Bank	Index	Change
2,800	2,800 JORDAN INSURANCE	11.0
3,950	3,950 JERUSALEM INSUR.	10.7
1,800	1,740 JOR. FRENCH INSUR.	5.2
2,150	2,150 MEXI LAND INSUR.	6.3
2,100	2,100 ARAB LIFE INSUR.	7.7

Insurance	Index	Change
1,930	1,490 JOR. ELECTRIC PWR.	9.5
3,430	3,430 JOR. ELECTRICITY	22.0
1,480	1,310 BAKEL. PORTFOLIO	-
970	900 BAKEL. ESTATE INV.	12.8
530	510 JORDAN INTL. TRAD.	27.7
7,220	6,700 BAKEL. INDUSTRIES	12.8
1,260	1,190 MID. EAST TRADING	19.5
3,520	3,340 ARAB INTL. INV. EDUC.	9.1
1,070	1,000 KANAKA EDUCATION	-
1,830	1,720 UNIFIED CO.	8.6
740	700 UNION LABOR DEV.	-

Services	Index	Change
1,000	1,000 ATLASCO	-
3,900	3,820 JOR. CEMENT FACT.	25.4
2,820	2,700 JOR. PHOSPHATE MINES	10.3
6,200	5,950 ARAB POTASH CO.	14.9
11,000	10,450 JOR. PETROL. REFINERY	10.6
1,140	1,120 BAKEL. INDUSTRIES	9.7
1,700	1,610 INDUSTRIAL COM. LAB.	-
4,700	4,300 ARAB PHARM. MANF.	12.7
2,650	2,580 JORDAN DAIRY	8.9
6,450	6,350 ARAB CERN. DYER.	19.9
1,460	1,450 ARAB CEMENT	14.5
2,510	2,290 ARAB ALUM. IND.	5.8
570	470 LIVESOCK & FOOTWEAR	11.0
1,040	990 ARAB PAPER COM. TRD.	26.3
830	800 NATIONAL STEEL IND.	-
1,370	1,300 NATIONAL STEEL IND.	-
580	540 EXTERMED. PETRO. CHEM.	-
650	630 JOR. ROCEWOL IND.	-
1,530	1,480 UNIV. CHEM. IND.	13.1
2,360	2,100 BAKEL. CABLE WIRE. MANF.	26.9
1,630	1,610 BAKEL. CHELORIDE	14.5
1,360	1,330 ARAB PHARM. CHEM.	16.7
730	730 KANTHER INVEST.	69.0
1,290	1,240 UNIV. MOD. IND.	470.9
930	900 JOR. INDUS. RESOURCES	12.1
1,600	1,540 BAKEL. CHELORIDE	14.5
850	830 JOR. NEW CABLE CO.	15.4
1,400	1,350 BAKEL. CHELORIDE	14.5
1,280	1,220 UNIV. CHEM. IND.	6.2
1,200	1,100 UNIV. CHEM. & VES.	50.3

Industrial	Index	Change
1,000	1,000 ATLASCO	-
3,900	3,820 JOR. CEMENT FACT.	25.4
2,820	2,700 JOR. PHOSPHATE MINES	10.3
6,200	5,950 ARAB POTASH CO.	14.9
11,000	10,450 JOR. PETROL. REFINERY	10.6
1,140	1,120 BAKEL. INDUSTRIES	9.7
1,700	1,610 INDUSTRIAL COM. LAB.	-
4,700	4,300 ARAB PHARM. MANF.	12.7
2,650	2,580 JORDAN DAIRY	8.9
6,450	6,350 ARAB CERN. DYER.	19.9
1,460	1,450 ARAB CEMENT	14.5
2,510	2,290 ARAB ALUM. IND.	5.8
570	470 LIVESOCK & FOOTWEAR	11.0
1,040	990 ARAB PAPER COM. TRD.	26.3
830	800 NATIONAL STEEL IND.	-
1,370	1,300 NATIONAL STEEL IND.	-
580	540 EXTERMED. PETRO. CHEM.	-
650	630 JOR. ROCEWOL IND.	-
1,530	1,480 UNIV. CHEM. IND.	13.1
2,360	2,100 BAKEL. CABLE WIRE. MANF.	26.9
1,630	1,610 BAKEL. CHELORIDE	14.5
1,360	1,330 ARAB PHARM. CHEM.	16.7
730	730 KANTHER INVEST.	69.0
1,290	1,240 UNIV. MOD. IND.	470.9
930	900 JOR. INDUS. RESOURCES	12.1
1,600	1,540 BAKEL. CHELORIDE	14.5
850	830 JOR. NEW CABLE CO.	15.4
1,400	1,350 BAKEL. CHELORIDE	14.5
1,280	1,220 UNIV. CHEM. IND.	6.2
1,200	1,100 UNIV. CHEM. & VES.	50.3

Grand Total	Index	Change
3114	3051567	6397117

Index	Change
3114	3051567

Index	Change
3114	3051567

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3114	3051567

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3114	3051567

Index	Change
3114	3051567

UEFA Cup draw

Strasbourg get chance of second British scalp

GENEVA (AFP) — French League strugglers Strasbourg were Friday handed the opportunity to claim a second British scalp in the UEFA Cup.

The Alsace club were drawn to face perennial English powerhouses Liverpool after eliminating expensively-assembled Glasgow Rangers of Scotland in the first round.

Liverpool, who struggled to overcome another Scottish side, Celtic, on Tuesday, have been drawn away for the first leg.

"Facing Liverpool is a bonus for us, as we had only budgeted for playing in one round of the competition," said Strasbourg sporting director Bernard Gardon. "Nonetheless, our players are capable of worrying, and maybe beating, Liverpool."

Liverpool manager Roy Evans was reasonably happy with the draw.

"I've seen Strasbourg a few times last season and they were clearly a good side, technically excellent, and although they haven't started this season very well you'll find that they'll raise their game to play against us," he said.

"Looking around the rest

of the draw there aren't many teams left that you'd say I fancy them. All around Europe now there are no easy matches and although we could have got Udinese who were in our group in the draw, Strasbourg will be just as difficult."

The four other French clubs in the last 32 had mixed fortunes.

Lyon were given a daunting task against the powerful Italians of Inter Milan, while Auxerre faces OFI Crete of Greece. Bastia play Steaua Bucharest of Romania and Metz meet Karlsruhe of Germany.

Lyon coach Bernard Lacombe was philosophical about being drawn against the star-studded Inter team that includes Ronaldo and Frenchman Youri Djorkaeff — buoyed by the fact that Lyon beat Lazio in the UEFA Cup two years ago.

"We are going to play against a team that is dominant in the Italian championship and we know the qualities of their players, but nonetheless it is a great moment for our club," he said.

"We know it will be very difficult, but we will try to lift ourselves to another level."

The other English survivors, Aston Villa, face a daunting trip to the Basque region of Spain after being paired with Atletico Bilbao.

The conquerors of English clubs Leicester and Arsenal, Atletico Madrid and PAOK Salonica, have been drawn against each other with the Greek side travelling to Spain in the first leg against Juninho and company.

"PAOK are very difficult opponents for us," said Atletico Madrid committee-man Clemente Villaverde.

In other matches between potential Cup winners, Ajax face Udinese and Schalke 04 will play Anderlecht. Germans TSV Munich 1860 will play Rapid Vienna and their compatriots Bochum were drawn against FC Brugge.

"We've drawn a fabulous opponent in Rapid Vienna," said Munich 1860 sporting director Edgar Green. "They are attractive for the club both in sporting terms and financially."

Bochum coach Klaus Toppmoller was equally enthusiastic after the draw was reversed. His side will play their second leg at home. "It is certainly not a bad draw even though the Belgians are top of their

table," Toppmoller said. "It could have been a lot worse with alternatives like Lazio, Atletico Madrid and Steaua Bucharest."

UEFA, meanwhile, have ordered Spartak Moscow and Sion to replay their UEFA Cup first-round, second-leg match, and fined the Russians 10,000 Swiss francs.

Sion protested after their 2-2 draw in Moscow on Wednesday, which led to a 3-2 aggregate defeat, saying the crossbars on both goals at the Russian club's stadium were too low.

The winners after the replay will meet Spain's Real Valladolid.

In the Cup Winners' Cup, former title holders Chelsea were drawn to play Tromso of Norway in the second round. The match will mean a reunion for striker Tore Andre Flo, who joined the Londoners from Tromso.

Second division French club Nice, who beat Kilmarnock in the first round, were rewarded with a meeting against Slavia Prague of the Czech Republic, while fancied VfB Stuttgart of Germany face Belgium's Ekeren, surprise winners against Red Star Belgrade.

UEFA order replay of Spartak-Sion match

NYON (AFP) — Moscow Spartak and Sion must replay their UEFA Cup first-round, second-leg match, UEFA ordered Friday.

Sion protested after their 2-2 draw in Moscow on Wednesday, which led to a 3-2 aggregate defeat, saying the crossbars on both goals at the Russian club's stadium were too low.

The Swiss club informed French referee Claude Colombo just before the kick-off that both goals were 12cm too low, UEFA said.

"Nonetheless, for reasons of security, the referee decided to let the match proceed," UEFA said.

UEFA ordered Friday that the match be replayed in Moscow before October 15 and Spartak Moscow vice-president Gennady Znaevskiy said his club accepted the ruling. Sion, however, plan to appeal against the ruling.

The Swiss club maintain that article 6 of UEFA's disciplinary regulations stipulate that the only sanctions available were either to award the match 3-0 to FC Sion or to qualify the club automatically for the next round. They have said they will refuse to replay



UEFA vice chairman Viacheslav Koloskov (R) holds up the ballot carrying both the names of the Swiss soccer club Sion and the Russian club Spartak Moscow while UEFA president Lennart Johansson (L) looks on at the draws for the second round of the UEFA Cup soccer in Geneva. The Sion-Spartak Moscow match will be replayed on October 15 with the winners facing Real Valladolid (Reuters photo).

the contest. "There is no reason to replay a non-regulation match. You have simply to judge where the fault lies," club president Christian Constantin said.

Constantin has noted that

UEFA regulations stipulate the host club is wholly responsible for any irregularities and have to bear the consequences. He pointed out that the Swiss had commented on the problem before the start of the

match, but the Russians had done nothing about it.

The eventual winners will advance to face the Spaniards of Real Valladolid in the second round of the competition.

Melbourne pulls out as host of Olympic soccer preliminaries

MELBOURNE (AFP) — The Australian state of Victoria Friday pulled out of hosting preliminary matches at the 2000 Sydney Olympics football tournament, citing financial requirements imposed by Games organisers.

Victorian Premier Jeff Kennett said financial requirements imposed by the Sydney Organising Committee for the Olympic Games (SOCOG) made it too risky for his state to stage its planned games in Melbourne.

Despite assurances from Soccer Australia, and the experience of previous Olympics that soccer would be the biggest money spinner of the Games, Kennett said he did not believe it was financially viable.

"It is disappointing that Melbourne will not be one of the host cities for this tournament but the potential all-up cost could not be justified as it does not repre-

sent value for money," he said.

"The government would have preferred to have had Melbourne join the other host cities because of the strength of soccer in Victoria but the financial hurdles could not be overcome."

While Kennett said Victoria had pulled out of the Olympic football tournament because of financial reasons, the decision casts doubt on whether the proposed tournament site, the Docklands Stadium, will be ready in time as promised.

Kennett said SOCOG had required financial guarantees which amounted to as much as 90 million dollars (\$65 million) if the new stadium was not available.

"The organising committee (SOCOG) required an unlimited financial guarantee which would have exposed the Victorian taxpayers to unlimited financial liability and it was

decided negotiations would not proceed," he said.

But SOCOG chief executive Sandy Hollway said Friday the deal offered to Melbourne was the same as for every other state and remained the same as when Victoria initially applied to be considered as an Olympic soccer host.

"Indeed, right up until yesterday (Thursday), SOCOG did everything we could to cater for the Victorian bid without compromising the contracts signed with such goodwill by the governments of the Australian Capital Territory, Queensland and South Australia," Hollway said.

He also denied the liability to Victoria was as high as Kennett claimed.

He said it was particularly disappointing considering Melbourne's history as host of the 1956 Olympic Games.

Australians outraged at appointment of E. German coach

SYDNEY (AFP) — The Australian sporting community expressed their outrage on Friday at Athletics Australia's decision to appoint, a former East German coach to head the national track and field team.

Forbes Carlile, one-time coach of Olympic swimming great Shane Gould and a vocal anti-drugs campaigner, said he was astounded by Eckart Arbeit's appointment, describing it as like recruiting a Chinese swimming coach to the Australian swimming team.

The 56-year-old Arbeit was East Germany's throwing events coach from 1982-1988 and chief coach of track and field from 1989-1990 — a time when there was systematic use of performance-enhancing drugs among that country's athletes.

Dual Olympic swimming gold medalist Kieren Perkins said the appointment

threatened to mar Athletics Australia's reputation internationally.

"After the Dean Capobianco situation, I think there's a bit of a cloud over Australian athletics anyway," Perkins said, referring to sprinter Capobianco's suspension for testing positive to anabolic steroids in the lead-up to last year's Atlanta Olympics.

"And this is probably only going to add to the situation. It's bad timing from Athletics Australia's point of view."

Arbeit, who has been appointed through to the Sydney 2000 Olympics and beyond, has admitted to the Australian media that he oversaw his team in an era of East German sport where drugs were commonplace.

"The next thing, we'll be appointing a Chinese swimming coach."

It's a similar situation. If they could do this then they

could do that," Carlile said Friday.

The veteran swim coach was alluding to China's sudden emergence as a world swimming power when it won 12 of 16 women's events at the 1994 world championships only to be embarrassed later that year when seven swimmers including two world champions tested positive at the Hiroshima Asian Games.

Australian athletics icon Raelene Boyle, who lost track events at the 1972 Munich Olympic Games to East German athletes later to be found to have taken steroids, said it was a bad move for the sport.

"It's a backward step. It's almost a step of acknowledging that drugs in sport are here to stay so we might as well have one that understands that culture," Boyle said.

French face Dutch in Fed Cup final

S'HERTOGENBOSCH, Holland (AFP) — Mary Pierce and Sandrine Testud lead a powerful French team into this weekend's final of the Fed Cup against the Netherlands.

Pierce, world ranked eighth, and Testud, ranked 14th, are both higher-ranked than their Dutch singles opponents, Brenda Schultz-McCarthy and Miriam Oremans.

Testud opens on Saturday against Schultz-McCarthy with Pierce then playing Oremans. The reverse singles will be played Sunday followed by the potentially-decisive doubles between Dutch pair Manon Bollegraf and Caroline Vis against veteran Nathalie Tauziat and Alexandra Fusai.

France hold a 4-1 edge over the Dutch in previous Fed Cup meetings, but the Dutch have the home advantage.

"I hesitated until the last minute to choose between Mary Pierce and Nathalie Tauziat for the singles," said French captain Yannick Noah.

"Nathalie is indispensable in the doubles and the doubles may be crucial and I didn't want her to play all three matches. Mary, though, is suffering from a small muscle pull behind her left knee."



Michael Brundin (R) from AIK Solna and Toni Zlogar (l) from Primorje Ajdovscina fight for the ball during their first round, second leg match in the Cup Winners Cup in Ajdovscina. The match ended 1-1 although Primorje went through 2-1 on aggregate (Reuters photo).

Perkins concedes top 1,500m place to Hackett

BRISBANE (AFP) — Triple world record holder Kieren Perkins believes schoolboy Grant Hackett will be unchallenged in next week's 1,500 metres freestyle final at the Australian swimming trials.

But the dual Olympic 1,500m champion hopes to have the measure of the other contenders and win a berth in the team for next January's world championships in Perth.

Only two swimmers per nation can be selected for individual world events and the first two in the 1,500m final will be automatically selected in the Australian team.

"I know I'm underdone for these trials," Perkins said Friday.

"I don't have any illusions as to how fit I am but I'm hoping that aside from Grant, I'll have the measure of the rest of the contenders. We'll have to see."

Perkins believes he is only 85 per cent fit and his coach John Carew says he expects the 24-year-old superstar to produce nothing faster than

15 minutes seven seconds for his specialist event — almost half-a-minute outside his world record (14:41.66s) set three years ago.

But with Atlanta Olympic silver medalist Daniel Kowalski still to return to anything approaching a full training schedule after shoulder and back problems, Perkins is still expected to qualify to defend his 1,500m title.

From now on, though, it's clear swimming will take a back seat to family responsibilities after his marriage to Samantha Liu in April and the birth of their first child, Georgia Jane, last week.

"I don't intend to miss out on a thing and if that does mean I have to make some sacrifices in my sport, such is life," he said.

"I'm not worried about world championships frankly. If I can qualify for the team, I'll be more than happy. If I don't, I'll concentrate on the Commonwealth Games (next September)."

Perkins, who has not raced seriously since the Atlanta Olympics more than 12

months ago, will also contest the 200m and 400m freestyle next week but is expected to face much tougher opposition in the shorter events.

The Queensland holds the world record in the 400m (3:43.80s), set at the last world championships in Rome in 1994, but his level of fitness and the emergence of Hackett and Sydney's Ian Thorpe means he is unlikely to win the opportunity to defend his title in Perth.

Gold Coast-based Hackett won the 400-800-1,500m treble at the Pan Pacific Championships in Fukuoka, Japan, in August.

Perkins has been the centre of several engrossing tussles for 1,500m domination during his career: involving Barcelona Olympics silver medalist Glen Housman and Kowalski. His battles with 17-year-old Hackett look set to be just as exciting.

The trials, which double as the Australian national championships, get underway on Sunday.

Senna trial adjourned after no show

IMOLA (AFP) — A trial investigating the 1994 death of racing driver Ayrton Senna was adjourned here on Friday after three of the accused, Frank Williams, Patrick Head and Adrian Newey, failed to appear in court.

Hotels in the Imola region are fully booked because of a ceramics trade fair at Bologna, and defence lawyers Oreste Dominioni and Giuseppina Morelli said it had not been possible to find accommodation.

The hearing Friday lasted five minutes, but only after two hours of negotiations between the parties over the dates for the next sessions.

The trial will resume on October 28 with the testimony of former Williams team driver David Coulthard, while Williams himself, along with Head and Newey, is expected here the following day.

The other dates are provisional, with state prosecutor Maurizio Passarini beginning his summing up of the prosecution case on November 7.

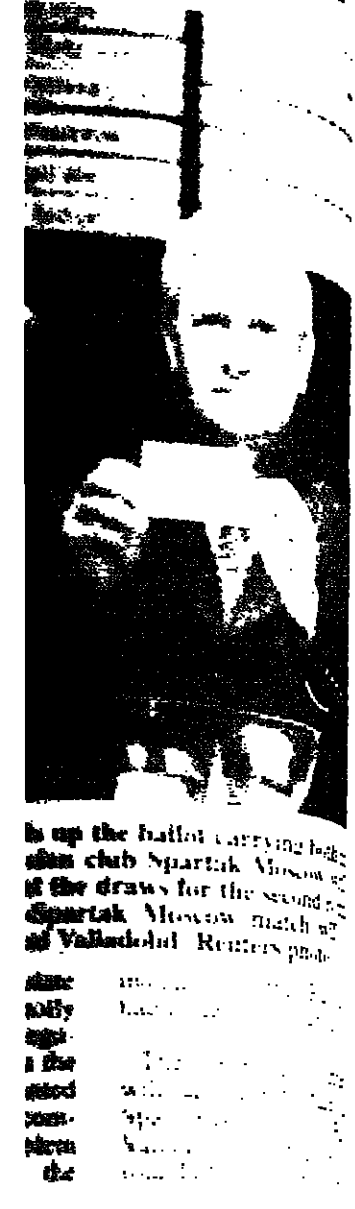
Subsequent sessions, primarily for the defence, are pencilled in for November 10-11-12, 14-17-18 and 21, indicating that it could be the end of the year before magistrate Antonio Costanzo gives his verdict.

Williams, Newey and Head, along with three race officials, face manslaughter charges after the Brazilian's fatal accident at the 1994 San Marino Grand Prix here.

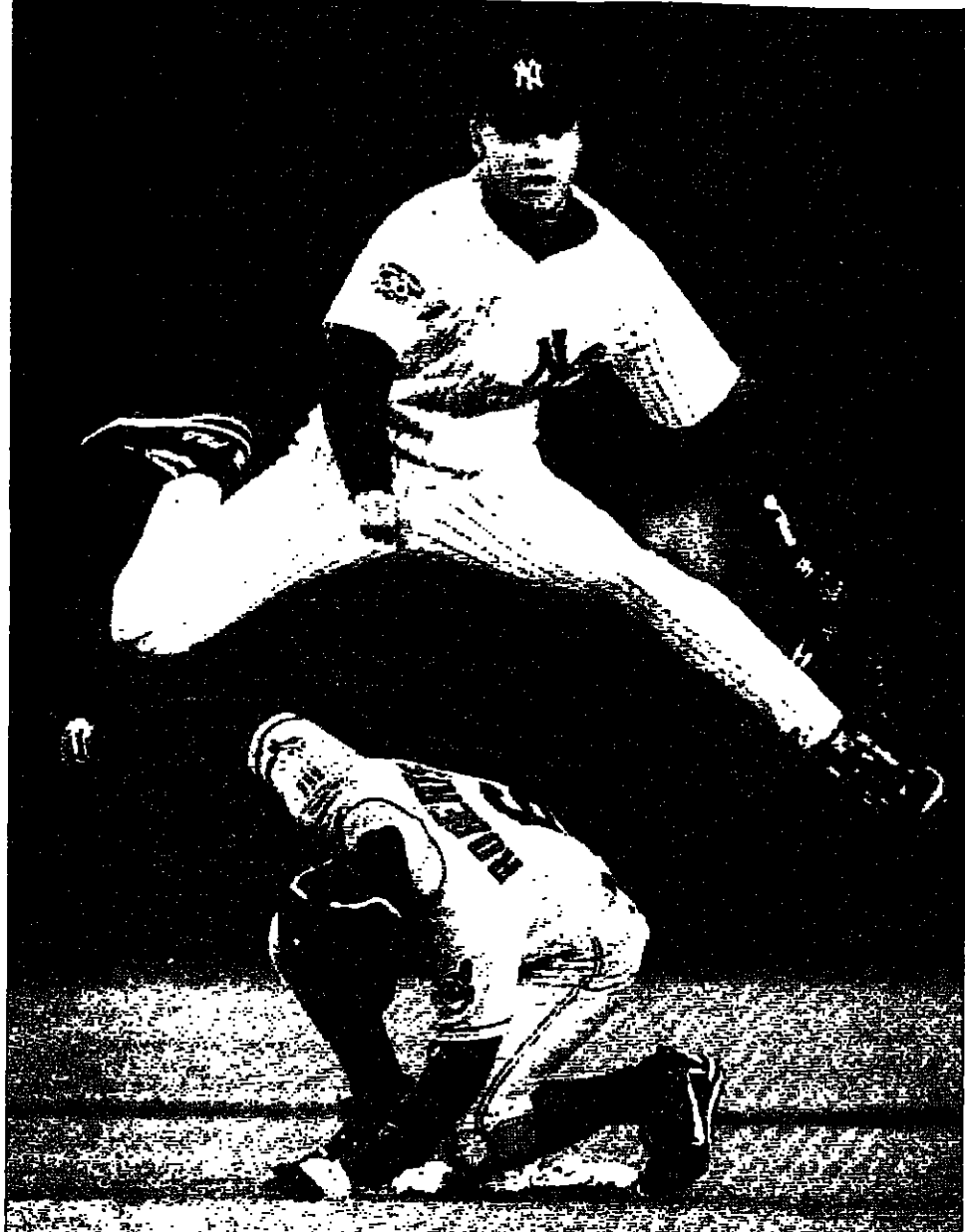
All six deny the charges, which carry a maximum sentence of five years in jail.

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Bruce Willis...in		Eddie Murphy...in		Curt Russel...in		CONCORD "1"		ABDOUN		ABDOUN		THE GOVERNMENT	
THE FIFTH ELEMENT		THE NUTTY PROFESSOR		CAPTAIN RON		Hugh Grant & Mr. Bean...in		John Travolta & Nicolas Cage...in		Julia Roberts...in		IN THE SERVICE	
Shows: 12:30, 3:30, 6:15, 8:30, 10:30		Shows: 6:15, 8:30, 10:30		Shows: 12:30, 3:30, 6:30, 8:30, 10:30		FOUR WEDDINGS & A FUNERAL		FACE OFF		MY BEST FRIEND'S WEDDING		OF PEOPLE	
		Paul Hogan...in				(12:30, 3:30, 6:15, 8:30, 10:30)		Shows: 3:30, 6:00, 8:30, 10:45		Shows: 3:30, 6:30, 8:30, 10:30		Starring Hisham Yanes and Amal Dabbas	
		FLIPPER				CONCORD "2"							
		Shows: 12:30, 3:30				MONKEY TROUBLE							
						Shows: 3:30, 5:45 only							

Sion match



It's up the ball! Carrying the ball, Sion club Spartak Moscow is at the draws for the second round of the Spartak Moscow match at the Valladolid Rovers' pitch.



New York Yankees' shortstop Derek Jeter goes high into the air turning the double play as he avoids Cleveland Indians' baserunner Bip Roberts during action in the first inning in game two of the American League Division series at Yankee Stadium (Reuters photo)

French face Dutch Fed Cup final

Cleveland hold on to level series with Yankees

NEW YORK (AFP) — Rookie Jarrett Wright settled down to pitch six solid innings and the bullpen squirmed out of two jams as Cleveland held on for a 7-5 victory over the New York Yankees here Thursday.

The victory evened their American League Division Series at one game apiece.

In the second AL division series, the Baltimore Orioles took advantage of an injury to Jamie Moyer and exploited Seattle's bullpen in a 9-3 victory over the Mariners.

Brady Anderson homered and drove in three runs as Baltimore took a commanding 2-0 lead in the best-of-five series.

In New York, Wright, 21, overcame a three-run first inning that featured three straight walks and a two-run double by Tino Martinez.

Facing the World Series champion Yankees for the first time, he regrouped and surrendered just two hits thereafter.

Wright walked four and struck out five before turning it over to the bullpen, which was pounded in New York's 8-6 victory in Game One. Paul Assenmacher, who allowed Paul O'Neill's

homers in the opener, surrendered a blast to O'Neill that was five feet foul from becoming a three-run homer before getting him on a grounder to end the seventh.

In the eighth, Jose Mesa loaded the bases with one out and hit Mike Stanley to force home a run. But with the go-ahead run at the plate, he got pinch-hitter Wade Boggs on a weak flare to shortstop and Tim Lincecum — who also homered in Game One — on a slow roller to first. Mesa allowed Derek Jeter's leadoff homer in the ninth — his second in as many games — before finishing up.

The loss ended a five-game postseason winning streak for the Yankees. Games Three and Four are Saturday and Sunday in Cleveland.

If necessary, Game Five also is at Jacobs Field. The Mariners are in more of a bind, trailing 2-0 and heading for three games in Baltimore.

Only four teams have rallied from a 2-0 hole in a best-of-five series, including the 1995 Mariners against the Yankees. The others are the 1981 Los Angeles Dodgers, 1982 Milwaukee Brewers and the 1984

San Diego Padres.

"There's no quit here, nobody's down, we're going to come out and play hard," said Seattle manager Lou Piniella. "We got a good pitcher going in Jeff Fassero. We've played very well in Baltimore, we've got to look positive, there's nothing else we can do."

Moyer was forced to leave in the fifth with an elbow injury and a 2-1 lead. The bullpen of Paul Spoljaric, Bobby Ayala and Norm Charlton imploded, allowing six runs over the next 4 1/3 innings.

"We were kind of stunned, we don't like to see anybody get hurt," said Orioles manager Davey Johnson. "None of us like to see any pitcher leave the game with an injury."

Anderson hit his fourth career postseason homer, a two-run shot in the seventh, to stake Baltimore to a 5-2 lead. He also capped a four-run eighth with a run-scoring rope off the right-field wall against Charlton.

Jordan sweeps the board as Arabian Horse Show concludes

By Omar Karmi
Special to the Jordan Times

AMMAN — The International Arabian Horse Show At Home ended Friday with the Middle East Championship — the last of the four-day festival's events — which also included horse races, as dressage event and a photography exhibition.

Jordan put in an extraordinary showing, almost sweeping the board, by taking first and second in the Junior Male Championship with Al Furat and Hlayyil Ramadan, both Royal Jordanian Stud, first and second in the Senior Male Championship with HRH Princess Zein's horse Jerash and Badr from Al-Nakeeb Arabians, first and second in the Senior Female Championship, with S.N. Wasama and Crinolina, both Ja'afar Stud.

The only category the Kingdom failed to take first or second in, was the Junior Female Championship, where Karama and Bahiya, belonging to Sheikh Zayed Ben Sultan Al-Nahyan from the UAE, came top.

The talk of the day, however, was focused on local favourite Jerash's fourth championship in the Senior

Male category, and retirement from the sport.

HRH Princess Zein's horse, Jerash was given to her from HRH Princess Alia who was delighted at the win. The announcement of its retirement came immediately after the prize-giving ceremony.

A four-time winner of the Middle East Championship, who missed out last year, it seemed fitting for Jerash to be retired at the top. A huge favourite with the crowd it was greeted with rapturous applause, both at the Middle East Championships here Friday, and at Thursday's national Championship, which it also won.

The horses were judged in four main categories: junior male and female, and senior male and female. Additional competitions were held for Most Classic Head (male and female) and junior and senior Liberty Class (where the horses are allowed to run free for two minutes).

The festival was acclaimed as an all-round success by organisers and participants alike.

Peter Upton from the U.K., one of the senior judges, who has attended all nine festivals praised the organisation of the event, calling it as professional as

How are they judged?

JUDGES GIVE marks in five categories when judging an Arabian: type, head and neck, body and topline, legs and movement.

Marks are given for the characteristic of the horse; how typically Arabian they are.

Arabian characteristics are especially prominent in the head and tail. The head of an Arabian is very refined, with almost chiselled features. It is wedge shaped with big cheeks and a small muzzle.

The eyes are very big, and head should be carried on its neck like a swan carries its. The tail should be lifted, when the horse is moving, like a flag.

The horse's general shape and bone-structure should be well developed; it should be short in the back with a little dip in the topline.

Legs should be powerful and straight, but not too straight. It should move well, giving a hint to its power, but light and untroubled: you shouldn't hear the Arabians galloping, you should see them.

The role of the handlers is very important. No horse is perfect, and it is the handlers job to show the horse off to the best possible effect. Thus, for example, if the neck is a bit short, the handler may well hold some grass up in front of its face, to make it stretch its neck, thus making it look as long as possible.

Is the horse a good mover, the handler will try to emphasise this in their showing. Handlers have to their best by the horse, and judges have to, as far as possible, see through this, and give as objective a judgement as possible.

the World Cup in Paris, and yet commended it for its informal and friendly atmosphere: "Horse shows can be very tense and competitive affairs," he said, "but at these events,

throughout the years, there has always been a very informal atmosphere; a great sense of the Arabian horse at home. The crowd is great and always shows fantastic enthusiasm."

To underline his point, great cheers arose just at that point as local Jerash was brought out.

HRH Princess Alia, president of the Royal Jordanian Equestrian Federation (RJEFF), organisers of the event, also enthused about the atmosphere: "It is almost like a garden party," she said.

She thanked all the participating countries; Syria, Egypt, Saudi Arabia, Bahrain, Palestine, and especially the UAE, whose equestrian federation sponsored the event. She also expressed her pleasure at the number of Jordanian breeders who entered the competition, and at the many local handlers who this year were used to show off the horses.

The festival was this year the biggest so far with many activities along the sidelines of the competition.

Ahmad Abu Ragheb said "as an organiser I'm very pleased with the extra events. It is our aim to show the Arabian horse off, not just in the show, or the endurance racing, but in show-jumping and dressage as well. This is a direction in which I think the festival can grow."

Bundesliga stars inspire Iran to World Cup win

TEHRAN (AFP) — Iran's Bundesliga stars Ali Daei and Karim Bagheri inspired Iran to a 3-0 victory over Qatar here on Friday, extending Iran's lead at the top of Group A in the Asian World Cup qualifying tournament to four points.

Daei and Bagheri, who both play for Arminia Bielefeld, scored Iran's goals as the Islamic republic took a positive step towards qualifying for their first World Cup finals since Argentina in 1978.

In front of a noisy 120,000 crowd in Azadi (Independence) Stadium in Tehran, Iran easily crushed a weak Qatari side now propping up the bottom of the five-nation qualifying group with just one point from three games.

Daei, who used to play in the Qatari league before moving to Germany, opened the scoring in the 35th minute after good work on the left flank by Ali Rida Mansurian.

Mansurian dribbled past two Qatari defenders before cutting the ball back from the by-line for Daei to side-foot into the right-hand corner of the goal from about 10 metres.

As Mexican waves rippled through the huge crowd on the stroke of half time, Bagheri hit Iran's second goal.

In a repeat performance of the first, Mehdi Mehdavi weaved down the right side of the field before crossing the ball for Bagheri to score from close range.

Iran never looked troubled by Qatar, and Bagheri added a third 12 minutes into the second half.

Mansurian again provided an accurate cross from the left to Daei who shot straight at a Qatari defender. The ball fell to Bagheri who fired off a left foot shot to the right of the goalkeeper from the edge of the penalty box.

In the remaining 30 minutes Iran threatened to completely overwhelm their opponents, but despite peppering the Qatari goal with shots they failed to add to the score.

Rusedski qualifies to indoor semis after ending Enqvist challenge

BASEL (AFP) — Britain's U.S. Open finalist Greg Rusedski qualified for the semi-finals of the indoor tournament here on Friday but only after seeing off classy Swede Thomas Enqvist in three sets — 7-6 (7/4), 4-6, 6-3.

The 24-year-old Rusedski, appearing in the last eight of an ATP tournament for the sixth successive time, sealed his win with a love service game although the crucial moment had been when he broke Enqvist in the Swede's first service game of the deciding set.

Rusedski, ranked 10 in the world and seeded four here, had overcome a mini-break in the first set tie-breaker to break Enqvist twice and clinched the set on his first point as the Swede netted a volley.

However, the 23-year-old Enqvist, who has slipped to 15th in the rankings from a high of six, put Rusedski's service under pressure immediately in the second set and obtained the vital break in the Canadian-born naturalised Briton's second service game as Rusedski put a volley into the net.

Enqvist clinched the set without being troubled on

his serve, he had two love games during the set, on the first of his two set points.

However, the Briton dug deep and fought back in the third set breaking Enqvist on his first service game to lead 2-0, with a superb backhand pass down the line which left the Swede sprawled on the court after a desperate dive to get the ball back.

Rusedski had only one

worrying moment when he had to save two breakpoints with Enqvist netting a forehand and then the Briton put away a precise volley to save the second one.

He then strolled through the remainder of the set to record his third success in four meetings with the sixth seeded Swede and will face the Czech Republic's Petr Korda in Saturday's semi-final.

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NORTH	EAST
♠ A J 8 3	♠ 7 4 2
♥ A 6 2	♥ K J 5 4
♦ J 4	♦ 9 8
♣ A K 7 2	♣ Q J 8 5

WEST: ♠ K Q 10 9 6 5, ♥ Q 10 9 8, ♦ 8 6, ♣ 4 3

SOUTH: ♠ Void, ♥ 7 3, ♦ A K Q 10 7 3 2, ♣ A 10 9 6 4

The bidding: SOUTH WEST NORTH EAST
1NT 4♠ 5♠ 6♠
6♠

Opening lead: Three of ♠

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Turkish troops kill 415 Kurd rebels inside Iraq

ANKARA (AP) — Turkish jets bombed escape routes of Kurdish rebel guerrillas in northern Iraq on the 13th day of a cross-border incursion.

Some 16,000 Turkish troops have poured across the Turkish-Iraqi border to root out rebels who returned to the region after the last offensive in May.

Syria and Iran, concerned by the Turkish presence in the area, reportedly beefed up troops and armoured units along their borders with northern Iraq, the Anatolia News Agency said.

The Germany-based Kurdish news agency DEM carried a similar report on Friday.

Turkey accuses Syria and Iran of harbouring the rebels, who have been waging a guerrilla war for autonomy in Turkey's southeast.

Turkish commando units reportedly took control of Bikhayr mountains, used as a rebel escape route into Syria in May.

On Friday, fighting was reported at a guerrilla camp near the Iranian border, Anatolia said.

The army claims it has killed 415 rebels in the offensive and lost only six of its own. The claim could not be independently verified.

Turkish Kurdish rebels, who belong to the Kurdish Labour Party, PKK, use camps in northern Iraq for hit-and-run attacks in Turkey.

While cracking down on rebels in northern Iraq was underway, Turkey moved to normalise life in Turkey's southeast.

The parliament on Thursday lifted a 10-year policy of emergency rule from three southeastern provinces where the military says the rebel threat has diminished.

Violence still occurs in six other provinces still under emergency rule.

The government has promised to gradually remove the emergency rule, which allows provincial governors to impose curfews, call in troops to suppress demonstrations and to ban rallies.

After 13 years of fighting, Turkish military has managed to restrict clashes in mountainous areas but has been accused of using brutal tactics, including burning villages believed to shelter rebels.

More than 2,500 villages have been evacuated by the army to cut off potential guerrilla support in the past four years in the impoverished southeast.

The war has killed 28,000 people since 1984.

Syrian, Iranian forces build up near triangle

ANKARA (R) — Turkey's semi-official Anatolian News Agency said Friday that neighbours Syria and Iran had deployed troops near a Kurdish enclave in northern Iraq in an apparent response to a Turkish military raid into Iraq.

It said Syrian armoured units had built up near a triangle of territory where Syria, Turkey and northern Iraq meet. It also said Iranian troops had been deployed on Iran's border with northern Iraq.

A spokesman for the London-based Iraqi opposition group Iraqi National Congress (INC) confirmed the deployments.

"There is information that Syria... is carrying out a deployment only 30 kilometres from where our border meets northern Iraq," Anatolian said.

"Iran continues to deploy troops along its border with northern Iraq," the agency said. It gave no indication of the size of the build up.

Turkish forces have been fighting Kurdish Labour Party (PKK) guerrillas in northern Iraq for almost two weeks.

Ankara often accuses Iran and Syria of aiding the PKK in its fight for Kurdish self-rule in southeast Turkey. Damascus and Tehran deny helping the rebels.

The INC spokesman said one Syrian armoured division was positioned near northern Iraq. He said an unknown number of Iranian troops, including revolutionary guards, had taken up positions at three points near the northern Iraq border.

Around 15,000 troops, backed by air power, are taking part in the Turkish raid.

the second major strike into Iraq this year.

The PKK said fighting was still going on with Turkish troops around the group's main camp in northern Iraq, which Ankara said it had captured this week in a cross-border raid.

"The heaviest clashes in the region are continuing in the Zab Valley," the rebels said in a statement obtained by Reuters.

It said 10 members of an Iraqi Kurdish militia allied to Turkey had died in the clashes. The statement did not say who now controlled the Zab camp, a network of deep mountain caves.

Turkey says it is winning its anti-rebel fight inside Turkey but needs to finish off the PKK in northern Iraq. More than 26,000 people have died in the conflict.

Iraqi Foreign Minister Mohammed Sahaf Thursday demanded the immediate pull-out of Turkish troops from northern Iraq, in a speech to the U.N. General Assembly. He said Baghdad reserved the right to respond to "these acts of aggression."

It said 10 members of an Iraqi Kurdish militia allied to Turkey had died in the clashes. The statement did not say who now controlled the Zab camp, a network of deep mountain caves.

Turkey says it is winning its anti-rebel fight inside Turkey but needs to finish off the PKK in northern Iraq. More than 26,000 people have died in the conflict. Iran has also condemned the Turkish operation.

U.S. sending carrier battle group to Gulf

WASHINGTON (AFP) — The U.S. is sending an aircraft carrier battle group to the Gulf region following incursions by Iranian aircraft into a "no-fly zone" in southern Iraq, defence officials said Friday.

U.S. defence officials in Washington and Tampa, Florida, told Agence France Presse that the aircraft carrier USS Nimitz and accompanying warships had cancelled a scheduled port call in Singapore and would be redeployed to the Gulf region.

The officials, speaking on condition they not be named, said further details

on the timetable and reasons for the redeployment would be forthcoming from the White House, the State Department or the Pentagon later.

The move comes three days after the Pentagon said it had warned Iran that flights over the Western-imposed "no fly zone" could put Iranian pilots at risk.

Pentagon spokesman Kenneth Bacon said Tuesday the U.S. remained determined to enforce the no-fly zone and might find it difficult to discriminate between Iranian and Iraqi planes.

Spy in Egypt threatens suicide if not released

CAIRO (AP) — An Israeli convicted of spying in Egypt has threatened to commit suicide if he is not released from prison within a month, an Egyptian magazine reported Friday.

Al Ahram Al Arabi said Azzam Azzam made the threats in two letters he had tried to send to Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu and Foreign Minister David Levy. Both letters were confiscated by Egyptian guards, the magazine reported.

Azzam, a member of Israel's Druze minority, was sentenced to 15 years at hard labour after a court found him guilty last month.

The case worsened already uneasy relations between Israel and Egypt. Mr. Netanyahu and other Israeli leaders have insisted that Azzam, 34, was not an agent and have repeatedly appealed for his release.

The magazine said Azzam gave the letters, which were written in Hebrew, to his

family during a visit to the Cairo jail last week. The guards seized the letters, which they considered evidence if Azzam carried through with the threat, the magazine said.

The case against Azzam, the director of a textile factory in Egypt under joint Israeli-Egyptian ownership, included women's underwear allegedly soaked in invisible ink. An Egyptian was convicted as an accomplice and jailed for life with hard labour.

Under Egyptian law, there is no appeal of the verdict. The only recourse is a pardon by President Hosni Mubarak.

On Sunday, Israeli President Ezer Weizman visited Egypt to press Mr. Mubarak to release Azzam. At the time, Mr. Mubarak said Egypt was seeking legal means to release him. But Al Ahram Al Arabi, quoting "trusted officials," said that the government had turned down the appeal.



Queen Noor in Spain to attend royal wedding

Her Majesty Queen Noor is welcomed at Barcelona airport by Spain's Prince Felipe upon her arrival Friday. The Queen arrived here to attend the wedding ceremonies of Spanish Infanta Cristina and her fiancée Inaki Urdangarin today (AFP photo)

Gilfords say no comment on 'blood money' deposit

ADELAIDE (R) — The family of an Australian nurse murdered in Saudi Arabia would not comment Friday on a report that \$1.2 million had been paid into a special fund in a deal to spare a British nurse from a possible death sentence.

"I have got no comment. I have not heard a thing," Laurel Gilford told Reuters by telephone from her home in Jamestown, 200 kilometres north of Adelaide.

A lawyer for two British nurses tried for murder in Saudi Arabia earlier told Reuters in London that the sum, paid as "blood money," was part of a deal under which Laurel's husband Frank, brother of murdered nurse Yvonne Gilford, would waive a possible death sentence against Deborah Parry.

"The entire amount of \$1.2 million has already been wired (from England) and deposited in a special trust fund in Australia yesterday (Wednesday)," Salah Hejailan said.

He said the money would be released once Frank Gilford delivered documents requesting that the court discard confessions made by the two nurses in the case.

Mr. Frank Gilford was at work Friday morning and could not be contacted. Parry, 38, who has yet to be sentenced, could face execution by beheading for the murder of Yvonne Gilford at a military medical centre in eastern Saudi Arabia where they both worked.

Mr. Hejailan said Parry's co-accused, Lucille McLaughlin, had appealed against her sentence of 500 lashes and eight years in prison handed down by an Islamic court in Saudi Arabia on charges related to Gilford's killing last year.

Lawyers representing the Gilford family and the two nurses in Australia, who have confirmed they are negotiating a settlement, also would not comment Friday.

"There will not be any announcement today on how the negotiations are going," John Keen, representing Gilford, told Reuters, adding the talks were continuing.

Under Saudi law, the family of a victim can call for a death penalty by beheading of a convicted murderer or agree to clemency in exchange for blood money.

Moroccan rights group to lobby for banned satirist

RABAT (R) — A Moroccan human rights group said on Friday it was setting up a national committee to lobby for an end to a 10-year ban on Morocco's most popular satirist, Ahmad Sanoussi.

Mr. Sanoussi, better known as Bziz, has been described as "Morocco's most censored artist" by the U.S.-based group Human Rights Watch in the past two years.

"A preliminary meeting of rights activists was held on Thursday night to set up as soon as possible a national committee to support Sanoussi's plea for freedom of expression," a spokesman for the Moroccan Human Rights Organisation (OMDH) told Reuters.

Mr. Sanoussi has been banned from private and

public television and radio in Morocco since the end of 1986 but remains the country's most popular satirist and cassette recordings of his shows are widely distributed in universities.

His work includes mocking Morocco's human rights record and parodies of government figures such as the powerful Interior Minister Driss Basri.

Then Human Rights Minister Mohammed Ziyane said last year that Mr. Sanoussi was banned "because he makes politics instead of performing arts."

The OMDH spokesman said the committee would be composed of representatives from a dozen political parties, human rights groups, unions, writers, artists and journalists associations.

"The committee will launch a nationwide and international campaign for an end to the 10-year ban imposed on Sanoussi's satirical work," he said.

Interior ministry officials were not available for comment.

Mr. Sanoussi told Reuters in an interview last week: "In Morocco everything, including the right to a breath of air, is defined by the authorities as politics."

"By banning my shows the authorities are depriving the Moroccan people of the right to laughter and enjoyment. This is very serious and threatens freedom of speech," he said.

Mr. Sanoussi said his ban showed that contrary to official proclamations, Morocco remained "centuries away" from being a democracy.

Clinton campaign manager converts to Catholicism

WASHINGTON (AFP) — Dick Morris, President Bill Clinton's campaign guru until he was fired last year for going with a prostitute, has undergone another change — born Jewish, he has decided to convert to Catholicism. "For much of this year, spirituality has come into my life," said Morris, who now works for political campaigns outside the United States. "I know a lot of people may view it cynically, but it is a sincere and genuine fact of my life."

Monastery wants to move into electronic age

LONDON (AFP) — Cistercian monks on Caldy, a tiny island two miles off the Welsh coast, want to move into the electronic age and make a video to show what life is like behind their monastery walls. The monks are seeking cash from the national lottery to finance the project. "We hear that many people have video machines and decided this was the best way of explaining Caldy, better perhaps than pamphlets," Brother Gildas told the Independent newspaper. Only men are allowed to visit the monastery, where the monks who have taken a vow of silence, rise at 3:00 a.m. and retire at 8:00 p.m.

Man hands in 35 carat encrusted revolver

LONDON (AFP) — A British man handed in a \$100,000 diamond-encrusted revolver at a police station hours before a deadline for giving up handguns expired, police said Thursday. The gleaming .357 Smith and Wesson revolver complete with countless 35 carat diamonds embedded in white gold and platinum was the last gun to be surrendered at Horsham police station in southern England. Midnight Tuesday was the deadline for surrendering large calibre handguns outlawed after the Dunblane school massacre in which 16 children and their teacher were killed last year.

Juppe's controversial former apartment on sale

PARIS (AFP) — A luxury 17th century apartment, owned by the city of Paris and once let by former French Prime Minister Alain Juppe at a controversially low rent, will be sold at auction next Tuesday. The six-room terraced duplex in central Paris' sixth arrondissement, which Juppe vacated in October 1995 after a bitter political debate over the propriety of his \$1,800 a month rent, was expected to fetch \$750,000. Revelations by the satirical journal Canard Enchaîné over the conditions of Juppe's rental unleashed a torrent of such disclosures concerning "privileged" personalities living in luxury city owned flats at preferential rents, including Juppe's son Laurent.

The Dalai Lama will see Seven Years in Tibet at home

LOS ANGELES (AFP) — The Dalai Lama will get to see French director Jean-Jacques Annaud's "Seven Years in Tibet" from the comfort of his residence in northern India, since he lives in a town with no movie theaters. Annaud told Daily Variety newspaper, a screen will be installed in the Dalai Lama's home in the town of Dharamshala so he can watch the picture, starring Brad Pitt, which will open Monday in Los Angeles.

Iran says air raid on Iraq is defense

TEHRAN (AFP) — Iran Friday described its air raids on Iraqi territory as defensive operations, aimed at "terrorist" bases and accused Baghdad of helping Iranian rebels launch cross-border attacks.

Iran's permanent mission at the United Nations said Monday's bombing raids were in response to infiltrations by two "heavily-armed" teams of the Iraq-based opposition group the People's Mujahedeen on the same day.

"So the Iranian air force, in a merely defensive act, moved to fend off aggressors and defend Iran's borders," the mission said, the official news agency IRNA reported.

The mission accused the Iraqi military and intelligence of providing financial and logistic assistance to the Mujahedeen, the main armed Iranian opposition group, and "accompanying terrorists" into Iran.

"Even though Iran is committed to Iraq's territorial integrity, we deem unacceptable Baghdad's behaviour in allowing this group to use Iraqi soil for sabotage activities against Iran," it said.

The mission said Baghdad's concern was

"unnecessary" because the attack was not directed against Iraq.

Iran sharply protested the raids this week and called for the lifting of a ban on Iraqi flights in the areas in order to defend itself from future such attacks.

The "no-fly zones" for Iraqi aircraft were imposed by the United States and its allies following the 1991 Gulf war.

Iran said after the raids that several "terrorist counter-revolutionaries" had been killed or wounded.

The Mujahedeen said Iranian warplanes struck two of its bases near Al Kut, southeast of Baghdad, and Jalula, northeast of the capital, injuring several civilians.

The Iranian mission said the two rebel teams which infiltrated Iran had come from these two bases in Iraq. The raid came after a meeting Friday in New York between Iraqi Foreign Minister Mohammad Said Sahaf and Iranian Foreign Minister Kamal Kharazi on normalising bilateral relations.

Iran and Iraq fought a war from 1980 to 1988 and ties remain strained a decade later.

2 dead, dozens wounded as violence erupts over new farm law in Egypt

CAIRO (AFP) — Two people have been killed, including a young girl, and dozens injured in a wave of violence in the northern delta region of Egypt over a farm reform law, a farmers' rights group said Friday.

One tenant farmer was shot dead by a landowner who tried to evict him from his land and a 14-year-old girl was killed during a battle between the families of a landowner and his tenant, according to the Land Centre for Human Rights (LCHR).

A third man died of "physical shock" caused by his landlord's refusal to renew his tenancy, the centre said.

It said dozens of people were injured in the Delta region around Giza, Daqahiya and Alexandria

in clashes over the land reform law introduced at the start of the month which allows landlords to raise rents or evict rebel tenants.

The centre added that around 100 people had been briefly detained for questioning over the clashes.

The law, which was passed in 1992 with a five-year grace period, undoes legislation adopted at the height of the 1952 revolution which confiscated huge masses of land from landlords and gave tenants security over rented land at low prices.

A total of 17 people are now reported to have been killed and more than 300 wounded since protests against the law erupted in January.

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